PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 467 (Part 2)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2007–2008

COMPRISING PERIOD
6 November 2007—22 November 2007

Chronology of
The Parliamentary Debates

The Parliamentary History contains all that can be collected of the Legislative History of this country from the Conquest to the close of the XVIIIth Century (1803), 36 vols. The chief sources whence these Debates are derived are the Constitutional History, 24 vols.; Sir Simonds D'Ewes' Journal; Debates of the Commons in 1620 and 1621; Chandler and Timberland's Debates, 22 vols.; Grey's Debates of the Commons, from 1667 to 1694, 10 vols.; Almons Debates, 24 vols.; Debrett's Debates, 63 vols.; The Hardwicke Papers; Debates in Parliament by Dr. Johnson, &c. &c.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES commenced with the year 1803, and the contents are set forth in the following Chronological Table:—

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House of Commons

Alphabetical List of Members

[Returned at the General Election, 5 May 2005]

A

Abbott, Diana Julie (Hackney, North and Stoke Newington)
Adams, Gerry (Belfast, West)
Afriyie, Adam (Windsor)
Ainger, Nicholas Richard (Carmarthen, West and South Pembrokeshire)
Ainsworth, Peter Michael (East Surrey)
Ainsworth, Rt. Hon. Robert William (Coventry, North-East)
Alexander, Daniel Grian (Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey)
Alexander, Douglas Garven (Paisley and Renfrewshire, South)
Allen, Graham William (Nottingham, North)
Amess, David Anthony Andrew (Southend, West)
Ancram, Rt. Hon. Michael Andrew (Devizes)
Anderson, David (Blaydon)
Anderson, Janet (Rossendale and Darwen)
Arbuthnot, Rt. Hon. James Norwich (North-East Hampshire)
Armstrong, Rt. Hon. Hilary Jane (North-West Durham)
Atkins, Charlotte Jean (Staffordshire, Moorlands)
Atkinson, Peter Landreth (Hexham)
Austin, Ian Christopher (Dudley, North)
Austin, John Eric (Erith and Thamesmead)

B

Bacon, Richard Michael (South Norfolk)
Bailey, Adrian Edward (West Bromwich, West)
Baird, Vera (Redcar)
Baker, Norman John (Lewes)
Baldry, Antony Brian (Banbury)
Balls, Edward Michael (Normanton)
Banks, Gordon Raymond (Ochil and South Perthshire)
Barker, Gregory Leonard George (Bexhill and Battle)
Barlow, Celia Anne (Hove)
Baron, John Charles (Billericay)
Barrett, John Andrew (Edinburgh, West)
Barron, Rt. Hon. Kevin John (Rother Valley)
Battle, Rt. Hon. John Dominic (Leeds, West)
Bayley, Hugh (City of York)
Beckett, Rt. Hon. Margaret Mary (Derby, South)
Begg, Anne (Aberdeen, South)
Beith, Rt. Hon. Alan James (Berwick-upon-Tweed)
Bell, Sir Stuart (Middlesbrough)
Bellingham, Henry Campbell (North-West Norfolk)
Benn, Rt. Hon. Hilary James (Leeds, Central)
Benton, Joseph Edward (Bootle)
Benyon, Richard Henry Ronald (Newbury)
Bercow, John Simon (Buckingham)
Beresford, Sir Alexander Paul (Mole Valley)
Berry, Roger Leslie (Kingswood)
Betts, Clive James Charles (Sheffield, Attercliffe)
Binley, Brian Arthur Roland (Northampton, South)
Blackman, Elizabeth Marion (Erewash)
Blackman-Woods, Roberta Carol (City of Durham)
Blair, Rt. Hon. Anthony Charles Lynton (Sedgefield) *[Resigned, June 2007]*
Blears, Hazel Anne (Salford)
Blizzard, Robert John (Waveney)
Blunkett, Rt. Hon. David (Sheffield, Brightside)
Blunt, Crispin Jeremy Rupert (Reigate)
Bone, Peter William (Wellingborough)
Borrow, David Stanley (South Ribble)
Boswell, Timothy Eric (Daventry)
Bottomley, Peter James (Worthing, West)
Bradshaw, Benjamin Peter James (Exeter)
Brady, Graham Stuart (Altrincham and Sale, West)
Brake, Thomas Anthony (Carshalton and Wallington)
Brazier, Julian William Hendy (Canterbury)
Breed, Colin Edward (South-East Cornwall)
Brennan, Kevin Denis (Cardiff, West)
Brokenshire, James Peter (Hornchurch)
Brooke, Annette Lesley (Mid-Dorset and North Poole)
Brown, Lyn Carol (West Ham)
Brown, Rt. Hon. James Gordon (Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath)
Brown, Rt. Hon. Nicholas Hugh (Newcastle upon Tyne, East and Wallsend)
Brown, Russell Leslie (Dumfries and Galloway)
Browne, Desmond Henry (Kilmarnock and Loudon)
Browne, Jeremy Richard (Taunton)
Browning, Angela Frances (Tiverton and Honiton)
Bruce, Malcolm Gray (Gordon)
Bryant, Christopher John (Rhondda)
Buck, Karen Patricia (Regent's Park and Kensington, North)
Burden, Richard Haines (Birmingham, Northfield)
Burgon, Colin (Elmet)
Burnham, Andrew Murray (Leigh)
Burns, Simon Hugh McGuigan (West Chelmsford)
Burrowes, David John Barrington (Enfield, Southgate)
Burstow, Paul Kenneth (Sutton and Cheam)
Burt, Alistair James Hendrie (North-East Bedfordshire)
Burt, Lorely Jane (Solihull)
Butler, Dawn Petula (Brent, South)
Butterfill, Sir John Valentine (Bournemouth, West)
Byers, Rt. Hon. Stephen John (North Tyneside)
Byrne, Liam Dominic (Birmingham, Hodge Hill)

C

Cable, John Vincent (Twickenham)
Caborn, Rt. Hon. Richard George (Sheffield, Central)
Cairns, John David (Inverclyde)
Calton, Patsy (Cheadle) *[Died, May 2005]*
Cameron, David William Donald (Witney)
Campbell, Alan (Tynemouth)
Campbell, Gregory Lloyd (East Londonderry)
Campbell, Ronald (Blyth Valley)
Campbell, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter Menzies (North-East Fife)
Carmichael, Alexander Morrison (Orkney and Shetland)
Carswell, John Douglas Wilson (Harwich)
Cash, William Nigel Paul (Stone)
Caton, Martin Phillip (Gower)
Cawsey, Ian Arthur (Brigg and Goole)
Challen, Colin Robert (Morley and Rothwell)
Chapman, James Keith (Wirral, South)

Chaytor, David Michael (Bury, North)
Chope, Christopher Robert (Christchurch)
Clapham, Michael (Barnsley, West and Penistone)
Clappison, William James (Hertsmere)
Clark, Gregory David (Tunbridge Wells)
Clark, Katy (North Ayrshire and Arran)
Clark, Paul Gordon (Gillingham)
Clarke, Rt. Hon. Charles Rodway (Norwich, South)
Clarke, Rt. Hon. Kenneth Harry (Rushcliffe)
Clarke, Rt. Hon. Thomas (Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill)
Clegg, Nicholas William Peter (Sheffield, Hallam)
Clelland, David Gordon (Tyne Bridge)
Clifton-Brown, Geoffrey (Cotswold)
Clwyd, Rt. Hon. Ann (Cynon Valley)
Coaker, Vernon Rodney (Gedling)
Coffey, Ann (Stockport)
Cohen, Harry Michael (Leyton and Wanstead)
Connarty, Michael (Linlithgow and East Falkirk)
Conway, Derek Leslie (Old Bexley and Sidcup)
Cook, Francis (Stockton, North)
Cook, Rt. Hon. Robin (Livingston) [*Died, August 2005*]
Cooper, Rosemary Elizabeth (West Lancashire)
Cooper, Yvette (Pontefract and Castleford)
Corbyn, Jeremy Bernard (Islington, North)
Cormack, Sir Patrick Thomas (South Staffordshire) [*Delayed return, June 2005*]
Cousins, James MacKay (Newcastle upon Tyne, Central)
Cox, Charles Geoffrey (Torridge and West Devon)
Crabb, Stephen (Preseli Pembrokeshire)
Crausby, David Anthony (Bolton, North-East)
Creagh, Mary Helen (Wakefield)
Cruddas, Jonathon (Dagenham)
Cryer, Constance Ann (Keighley)
Cummings, John Scott (Easington)
Cunningham, James Dolan (Coventry, South)
Cunningham, Thomas Anthony (Workington)
Curry, Rt. Hon. David Maurice (Skipton and Ripon)
Curtis-Thomas, Claire (Crosby)

D

Darling, Rt. Hon. Alistair Maclean (Edinburgh, South-West)
Davey, Edward Jonathon (Kingston and Surbiton)
David, Wayne (Caerphilly)
Davidson, Ian Graham (Glasgow, South-West)
Davies, David Clifford (Blaenau Gwent) [*By-election, July 2006*]
Davies, David Thomas Charles (Monmouth)
Davies, John Quentin (Grantham and Stamford)
Davies, Philip Andrew (Shipley)
Davis, Rt. Hon. David Michael (Haltemprice and Howden)
Dean, Janet Elizabeth Ann (Burton)
Denham, Rt. Hon. John Yorke (Southampton, Itchen)
Devine, James (Livingston) [*By-election, October 2005*]
Dhanda, Parmjit Singh (Gloucester)
Dismore, Andrew Hartley (Hendon)
Djanogly, Jonathan Simon (Huntingdon)
Dobbin, James (Heywood and Middleton)
Dobson, Rt. Hon. Frank Gordon (Holborn and St. Pancras)
Dodds, Nigel Alexander (Belfast, North)
Doherty, Pat (West Tyrone)
Donaldson, Jeffrey Mark (Lagan Valley)
Donohoe, Brian Harold (Central Ayrshire)
Doran, Frank (Aberdeen, North)
Dorrell, Rt. Hon. Stephen James (Charnwood)
Dorries, Nadine Vanessa (Mid-Bedfordshire)
Dowd, James Patrick (Lewisham, West)
Drew, David Elliott (Stroud)
Duddridge, James Philip (Rochford and Southend, East)
Duncan, Alan James Carter (Rutland and Melton)
Duncan Smith, Rt. Hon. George Iain (Chingford and Woodford Green)
Dunne, Philip Martin (Ludlow)
Dunwoody, Gwyneth Patricia (Crewe and Nantwich)
Durkan, John Mark (Foyle)

E

Eagle, Angela (Wallasey)
Eagle, Maria (Liverpool, Garston)
Efford, Clive Stanley (Eltham)
Ellman, Louise Joyce (Liverpool, Riverside)
Ellwood, Tobias Martin (Bournemouth, East)
Engel, Natascha (North-East Derbyshire)
Ennis, Jeffrey (Barnsley, East and Mexborough)
Etherington, William (Sunderland, North)
Evans, Nigel Martin (Ribble Valley)
Evennett, David Anthony (Bexleyheath and Crayford)

F

Fabricant, Michael Louis David (Lichfield)
Fallon, Michael Cathel (Sevenoaks)
Farrelly, Christopher Paul (Newcastle-under-Lyme)
Farron, Timothy James (Westmorland and Lonsdale)
Featherstone, Lynne Choona (Hornsey and Wood Green)
Field, Rt. Hon. Frank (Birkenhead)
Field, Mark Christopher (Cities of London and Westminster)
Fisher, Mark (Stoke-on-Trent, Central)
Fitzpatrick, James (Poplar and Canning Town)
Flello, Robert Charles Douglas (Stoke-on-Trent, South)
Flint, Caroline Louise (Don Valley)
Flynn, Paul Phillip (Newport West)
Follett, Daphne Barbara (Stevenage)
Forth, Rt. Hon. Eric (Bromley and Chislehurst) [*Died, May 2006*]
Foster, Donald Michael Ellison (Bath)
Foster, Michael Jabez (Hastings and Rye)
Foster, Michael John (Worcester)
Fox, Liam (Woodspring)
Francis, David Hywel (Aberavon)
Francois, Mark Gino (Rayleigh)
Fraser, Christopher James (South-West Norfolk)

G

Gale, Roger James (North Thanet)
Galloway, George (Bethnal Green and Bow)
Gapes, Michael John (Ilford, South)
Gardiner, Barry Strachan (Brent, North)
Garnier, Edward Henry (Harborough)
Gauke, David Michael (South-West Hertfordshire)
George, Andrew Henry (St. Ives)
George, Rt. Hon. Bruce Thomas (Walsall, South)
Gerrard, Neil Francis (Walthamstow)
Gibb, Nicolas John (Bognor Regis and Littlehampton)
Gibson, Ian (Norwich, North)
Gidley, Sandra Julia (Romsey)
Gildernew, Michelle (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)
Gillan, Cheryl Elise Kendall (Chesham and Amersham)
Gilroy, Linda (Plymouth, Sutton)

Godsiff, Roger Duncan (Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath)
Goggins, Paul Gerard (Wythenshawe and Sale, East)
Goldsworthy, Julia Anne (Falmouth and Camborne)
Goodman, Helen Catherine (Bishop Auckland)
Goodman, Paul Alexander Cyril (Wycombe)
Goodwill, Robert (Scarborough and Whitby)
Gove, Michael Andrew (Surrey Heath)
Gray, James Whiteside (North Wiltshire)
Grayling, Christopher Stephen (Epsom and Ewell)
Green, Damian Howard (Ashford)
Greening, Justine (Putney)
Greenway, John Robert (Ryedale)
Grieve, Dominic Charles Roberts (Beaconsfield)
Griffith, Nia Rhiannon (Llanelli)
Griffiths, Nigel (Edinburgh, South)
Grogan, John Timothy (Selby)
Gummer, Rt. Hon. John Selwyn (Suffolk Coastal)
Gwynne, Andrew John (Denton and Reddish)

H

Hague, Rt. Hon. William Jefferson (Richmond, Yorks)
Hain, Rt. Hon. Peter Gerald (Neath)
Hall, Michael Thomas (Weaver Vale)
Hall, Patrick (Bedford)
Hamilton, David (Midlothian)
Hamilton, Fabian (Leeds, North-East)
Hammond, Philip (Runnymede and Weybridge)
Hammond, Stephen William (Wimbledon)
Hancock, Michael Thomas (Portsmouth, South)
Hands, Gregory William (Hammersmith and Fulham)
Hanson, David George (Delyn)
Harman, Rt. Hon. Harriet (Camberwell and Peckham)
Harper, Mark James (Forest of Dean)
Harris, Evan Leslie (Oxford, West and Abingdon)
Harris, Tom (Glasgow, South)
Harvey, Nicholas Barton (North Devon)
Haselhurst, Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Gordon Barraclough (Saffron Walden)
Havard, David Stewart (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney)
Hayes, John Henry (South Holland and The Deepings)
Heal, Sylvia Lloyd (Halesowen and Rowley Regis)
Heald, Oliver (North-East Hertfordshire)
Healey, John (Wentworth)
Heath, David William St. John (Somerton and Frome)
Heathcoat-Amory, Rt. Hon. David Philip (Wells)
Hemming, John Alexander Melvin (Birmingham, Yardley)
Henderson, Douglas John (Newcastle upon Tyne, North)
Hendrick, Mark Phillip (Preston)
Hendry, Charles (Wealden)
Hepburn, Stephen (Jarrow)
Heppell, John (Nottingham, East)
Herbert, Nicholas Le Quesne (Arundel and South Downs)
Hermon, Lady Sylvia Eileen (North Down)
Hesford, Stephen (Wirral, West)
Hewitt, Rt. Hon. Patricia Hope (Leicester, West)
Heyes, David Alan (Ashton-under-Lyne)
Hill, Rt. Hon. Keith (Streatham)
Hillier, Meg (Hackney, South and Shoreditch)
Hoban, Mark Gerard (Fareham)
Hodge, Rt. Hon. Margaret Eve (Barking)
Hodgson, Sharon (Gateshead, East and Washington, West)
Hoey, Catharine Letitia (Vauxhall)
Hogg, Rt. Hon. Douglas Martin (Sleaford and North Hykeham)
Hollobone, Philip Thomas (Kettering)
Holloway, Adam James Harold (Gravesham)
Holmes, Paul Robert (Chesterfield)
Hood, James (Lanark and Hamilton, East)
Hoon, Rt. Hon. Geoffrey William (Ashfield)
Hope, Philip Ian (Corby)
Hopkins, Kelvin Peter (Luton, North)
Horam, John Rhodes (Orpington)
Horwood, Martin Charles (Cheltenham)
Hosie, Stewart (Dundee, East)
Howard, Rt. Hon. Michael (Folkestone and Hythe)
Howarth, David Ross (Cambridge)
Howarth, George Edward (Knowsley, North and Sefton, East)
Howarth, James Gerald Douglas (Aldershot)
Howells, Kim Scott (Pontypridd)
Hoyle, Lindsay Harvey (Chorley)
Hughes, Rt. Hon. Beverley June (Stretford and Urmston)
Hughes, Simon Henry Ward (North Southwark and Bermondsey)
Huhne, Christopher Murray Paul (Eastleigh)
Humble, Jovanka Joan (Blackpool, North and Fleetwood)
Hunt, Jeremy (South-West Surrey)
Hunter, Mark James (Cheadle) [*By-election, July 2005*]
Hurd, Nicholas Richard (Ruislip-Northwood)
Hutton, Rt. Hon. John Matthew Patrick (Barrow and Furness)

I

Iddon, Brian (Bolton, South-East)
Illsley, Eric Evlyn (Barnsley, Central)
Ingram, Rt. Hon. Adam (East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow)
Irranca-Davies, Ifor Huw (Ogmore)

J

Jack, Rt. Hon. John Michael (Fylde)
Jackson, Glenda May (Hampstead and Highgate)
Jackson, Stewart James (Peterborough)
James, Siân Catherine (Swansea, East)
Jenkin, Bernard Christison (North Essex)
Jenkins, Brian David (Tamworth)
Johnson, Rt. Hon. Alan Arthur (Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle)
Johnson, Alexander Boris (Henley)
Johnson, Diana Ruth (Kingston upon Hull, North)
Jones, David Ian (Clwyd, West)
Jones, Helen Mary (Warrington, North)
Jones, Kevan David (North Durham)
Jones, Lynne Mary (Birmingham, Selly Oak)
Jones, Martyn David (Clwyd, South)
Jowell, Rt. Hon. Tessa Jane (Dulwich and West Norwood)
Joyce, Eric (Falkirk)

K

Kaufman, Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Bernard (Manchester, Gorton)
Kawczynski, Daniel Robert (Shrewsbury and Atcham)
Keeble, Sally Curtis (Northampton, North)
Keeley, Barbara Mary (Worsley)
Keen, Alan (Feltham and Heston)
Keen, Ann Lloyd (Brentford and Isleworth)
Keetch, Paul Stuart (Hereford)

Kelly, Rt. Hon. Ruth Maria (Bolton, West)
Kemp, Fraser (Houghton and Washington, East)
Kennedy, Rt. Hon. Charles Peter (Ross, Skye and Lochaber)
Kennedy, Rt. Hon. Jane Elizabeth (Liverpool, Wavertree)
Key, Simon Robert (Salisbury)
Khabra, Piara Singh (Ealing, Southall) [*Died, June 2007*]
Khan, Sadiq Aman (Tooting)
Kidney, David Neil (Stafford)
Kilfoyle, Peter (Liverpool, Walton)
Kirkbride, Julie (Bromsgrove)
Knight, Rt. Hon. Gregory (East Yorkshire)
Knight, Jim (South Dorset)
Kramer, Susan Veronica (Richmond Park)
Kumar, Ashok (Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland)

L

Ladyman, Stephen John (South Thanet)
Laing, Eleanor Fulton (Epping Forest)
Lait, Jacqueline Anne Harkness (Beckenham)
Lamb, Norman Peter (North Norfolk)
Lammy, David Lindon (Tottenham)
Lancaster, John Mark (North-East Milton Keynes)
Lansley, Andrew David (South Cambridgeshire)
Law, Peter John (Blaenau Gwent) [*Died, April 2006*]
Laws, David Anthony (Yeovil)
Laxton, Robert (Derby, North)
Lazarowicz, Marek Jerzy (Edinburgh, North and Leith)
Leech, John (Manchester, Withington)
Leigh, Edward Julian Egerton (Gainsborough)
Lepper, David (Brighton, Pavilion)
Letwin, Rt. Hon. Oliver (West Dorset)
Levitt, Tom (High Peak)
Lewis, Ivan (Bury, South)
Lewis, Julian Murray (New Forest, East)
Liddell-Grainger, Ian Richard (Bridgwater)
Lidington, David Roy (Aylesbury)
Lilley, Rt. Hon. Peter Bruce (Hitchin and Harpenden)
Linton, Martin (Battersea)
Lloyd, Anthony Joseph (Manchester, Central)
Llwyd, Elfyn (Meirionnydd Nant Conwy)
Lord, Sir Michael Nicholson (Central Suffolk and North Ipswich)
Loughton, Timothy Paul (East Worthing and Shoreham)
Love, Andrew Mcculloch (Edmonton)
Lucas, Ian Colin (Wrexham)
Luff, Peter James (Mid-Worcestershire)

M

McAvoy, Rt. Hon. Thomas McLaughlin (Rutherglen and Hamilton, West)
McCabe, Stephen James (Birmingham, Hall Green)
McCafferty, Christine (Calder Valley)
McCarthy, Kerry (Bristol, East)
McCarthy-Fry, Sarah Louise (Portsmouth, North)
McCartney, Rt. Hon. Ian (Makerfield)
McCrea, The Reverend Robert Thomas William (South Antrim)
McDonagh, Siobhain Ann (Mitcham and Morden)
McDonnell, Alasdair (Belfast, South)
McDonnell, John Martin (Hayes and Harlington)
MacDougall, John William (Glenrothes)
McFadden, Patrick Bosco (Wolverhampton, South-East)
McFall, Rt. Hon. John (West Dunbartonshire)
McGovern, James (Dundee, West)
McGrady, Eddie (South Down)
McGuinness, Martin (Mid-Ulster)
McGuire, Anne (Stirling)
McIntosh, Anne Caroline Ballingall (Vale of York)
McIsaac, Shona (Cleethorpes)
Mackay, Rt. Hon. Andrew James (Bracknell)
McKechin, Ann (Glasgow, North)
McKenna, Rosemary (Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch, East)
Mackinlay, Andrew (Thurrock)
Maclean, Rt. Hon. David John (Penrith and The Border)
McLoughlin, Patrick Allen (West Derbyshire)
MacNeil, Angus Brendan (Na h-Eileanan an Iar)
McNulty, Anthony James (Harrow, East)
MacShane, Denis (Rotherham)
Mactaggart, Fiona Margaret (Slough)
Mahmood, Khalid (Birmingham, Perry Barr)
Main, Anne Margaret (St. Albans)
Malik, Shahid (Dewsbury)
Malins, Humfrey Jonathan (Woking)
Mallaber, Judy (Amber Valley)
Mann, John (Bassetlaw)
Maples, John Cradock (Stratford-on-Avon)
Marris, Robert Howard (Wolverhampton, South-West)
Marsden, Gordon (Blackpool, South)
Marshall, David (Glasgow, East)
Marshall-Andrews, Robert Graham (Medway)
Martin, Rt. Hon. Michael John (Glasgow, North-East)
Martlew, Eric Anthony (Carlisle)
Mates, Rt. Hon. Michael John (East Hampshire)
Maude, Rt. Hon. Francis Anthony Aylmer (Horsham)
May, Rt. Hon. Theresa Mary (Maidenhead)
Meacher, Rt. Hon. Michael Hugh (Oldham, West and Royton)
Meale, Joseph Alan (Mansfield)
Mercer, Patrick John (Newark)
Merron, Gillian Joanna (Lincoln)
Michael, Rt. Hon. Alun Edward (Cardiff, South and Penarth)
Milburn, Rt. Hon. Alan (Darlington)
Miliband, David Wright (South Shields)
Miliband, Edward Samuel (Doncaster, North)
Miller, Andrew Peter (Ellesmere Port and Neston)
Miller, Maria Frances Lewis (Basingstoke)
Milton, Anne Frances (Guildford)
Mitchell, Andrew John Bower (Sutton Coldfield)
Mitchell, Austin Vernon (Great Grimsby)
Moffatt, Laura Jean (Crawley)
Mole, Christopher David (Ipswich)
Moon, Madeleine (Bridgend)
Moore, Michael Kevin (Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk)
Moran, Margaret (Luton, South)
Morden, Jessica Elizabeth (Newport, East)
Morgan, Julie (Cardiff, North)
Morley, Elliot Anthony (Scunthorpe)
Moss, Malcolm Douglas (North-East Cambridgeshire)
Mountford, Kali Carol Jean (Colne Valley)
Mudie, George Edward (Leeds, East)
Mulholland, Gregory Thomas (Leeds, North-West)
Mullin, Christopher John (Sunderland, South)
Mundell, David Gordon (Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale)
Munn, Margaret Patricia (Sheffield, Heeley)
Murphy, Conor Terence (Newry and Armagh)
Murphy, Denis (Wansbeck)
Murphy, Jim (East Renfrewshire)
Murphy, Rt. Hon. Paul Peter (Torfaen)
Murrison, Andrew William (Westbury)

N

Naysmith, John Douglas (Bristol, North-West)
Neill, Robert (Bromley and Chislehurst) [*By-election, July 2006*]
Newmark, Brooks (Braintree)
Norris, Dan (Wansdyke)

O

O'Brien, Michael (North Warwickshire)
O'Brien, Stephen Rothwell (Eddisbury)
O'Hara, Edward (Knowsley, South)
Oaten, Mark (Winchester)
Olner, William John (Nuneaton)
Öpik, Lembit (Montgomeryshire)
Osborne, George Gideon Oliver (Tatton)
Osborne, Sandra (Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock)
Ottaway, Richard Geoffrey James (Croydon, South)
Owen, Albert (Ynys Môn)

P

Paice, James Edward Thornton (South-East Cambridgeshire)
Paisley, The Reverend Ian Richard Kyle (North Antrim)
Palmer, Nicholas Douglas (Broxtowe)
Paterson, Owen William (North Shropshire)
Pearson, Ian Phares (Dudley, South)
Pelling, Andrew John (Croydon, Central)
Penning, Michael Alan (Hemel Hempstead)
Penrose, John David (Weston-Super-Mare)
Picking, Anne (East Lothian)
Pickles, Eric Jack (Brentwood and Ongar)
Plaskitt, James Andrew (Warwick and Leamington)
Pope, Gregory James (Hyndburn)
Pound, Stephen Pelham (Ealing, North)
Prentice, Bridget Theresa (Lewisham, East)
Prentice, Gordon (Pendle)
Prescott, Rt. Hon. John Leslie (Kingston upon Hull, East)
Price, Adam (Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr)
Primarolo, Rt. Hon. Dawn (Bristol, South)
Prisk, Mark (Hertford and Stortford)
Pritchard, Mark Andrew (The Wrekin)
Prosser, Gwynfor Mathews (Dover)
Pugh, John David (Southport)
Purchase, Kenneth (Wolverhampton, North-East)
Purnell, James Mark Dakin (Stalybridge and Hyde)

R

Rammell, William Ernest (Harlow)
Randall, Alexander John (Uxbridge)
Raynsford, Rt. Hon. Wyvill Richard Nicolls (Greenwich and Woolwich)
Redwood, Rt. Hon. John Alan (Wokingham)
Reed, Andrew John (Loughborough)
Reed, Jamieson Ronald (Copeland)
Reid, Alan (Argyll and Bute)
Reid, Rt. Hon. John (Airdrie and Shotts)
Rennie, Willie (Dunfermline and West Fife) [*By-election, February 2006*]
Rifkind, Rt. Hon. Sir Malcolm Leslie (Kensington and Chelsea)
Riordan, Linda (Halifax)
Robathan, Andrew Robert George (Blaby)
Robertson, Angus (Moray)
Robertson, Hugh Michael (Faversham and Mid Kent)
Robertson, John (Glasgow, North-West)
Robertson, Laurence Anthony (Tewkesbury)
Robinson, Geoffrey (Coventry, North-West)
Robinson, Iris (Strangford)
Robinson, Peter David (Belfast, East)
Rogerson, Daniel John (North Cornwall)
Rooney, Terrence Henry (Bradford, North)
Rosindell, Andrew Richard (Romford)
Rowen, Paul John (Rochdale)
Roy, Frank (Motherwell and Wishaw)
Ruane, Christopher Shaun (Vale of Clwyd)
Ruddock, Joan Mary (Lewisham, Deptford)
Ruffley, David Laurie (Bury St. Edmunds)
Russell, Christine Margaret (City of Chester)
Russell, Robert Edward (Colchester)
Ryan, Joan Marie (Enfield, North)

S

Salmond, Alex Elliot Anderson (Banff and Buchan)
Salter, Martin John (Reading, West)
Sanders, Adrian Mark (Torbay)
Sarwar, Mohammad (Glasgow, Central)
Scott, Lee (Ilford, North)
Seabeck, Alison Jane (Plymouth, Devonport)
Selous, Andrew Edmund Armstrong (South-West Bedfordshire)
Shapps, Grant V (Welwyn Hatfield)
Sharma, Virendra Kumar (Ealing, Southall) [*By-election, July 2007*]
Shaw, Jonathan Rowland (Chatham and Aylesford)
Sheerman, Barry John (Huddersfield)
Shepherd, Richard Charles Scrimgeour (Aldridge-Brownhills)
Sheridan, James (Paisley and Renfrewshire, North)
Short, Rt. Hon. Clare (Birmingham, Ladywood)
Simmonds, Mark Jonathan Mortlock (Boston and Skegness)
Simon, Siôn Llewelyn (Birmingham, Erdington)
Simpson, Alan John (Nottingham, South)
Simpson, David (Upper Bann)
Simpson, Keith Robert (Mid-Norfolk)
Singh, Marsha (Bradford, West)
Skinner, Dennis Edward (Bolsover)
Slaughter, Andrew Francis (Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush)
Smith, Rt. Hon. Andrew David (Oxford, East)
Smith, Angela Christine (Sheffield, Hillsborough)
Smith, Angela Evans (Basildon)
Smith, Geraldine (Morecambe and Lunesdale)
Smith, Rt. Hon. Jacqueline Jill (Redditch)
Smith, John William Patrick (Vale of Glamorgan)
Smith, Sir Robert (West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine)
Snelgrove, Anne Christine (South Swindon)
Soames, Arthur Nicholas Winston (Mid-Sussex)
Soulsby, Sir Peter Alfred (Leicester, South)
Southworth, Helen Mary (Warrington, South)
Spellar, Rt. Hon. John Francis (Warley)
Spelman, Caroline Alice (Meriden)
Spicer, Sir Michael William Hardy (West Worcestershire)
Spink, Robert Michael (Castle Point)
Spring, Richard John Grenville (West Suffolk)
Squire, Rachel Anne (Dunfermline and West Fife) [*Died, January 2006*]
Stanley, Rt. Hon. Sir John Paul (Tonbridge and Malling)
Starkey, Phyllis Margaret (Milton Keynes, South-West)
Steen, Anthony David (Totnes)
Stewart, Ian (Eccles)
Stoate, Howard Geoffrey Alvan (Dartford)

Strang, Rt. Hon. Gavin Steel (Edinburgh, East)
Straw, Rt. Hon. John Whitaker (Blackburn)
Streeter, Gary Nicholas (South-West Devon)
Stringer, Graham Eric (Manchester, Blackley)
Stuart, Gisela Gschaider (Birmingham, Edgbaston)
Stuart, Graham Charles (Beverley and Holderness)
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Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 8 November 2007

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Mining: Compensation

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects the UK coal dust calculator to be implemented. [162257]

Malcolm Wicks: A recent Court Order (2007/49) sets out a timetable for the amended UK Dust Calculator to be tested and evaluated by the relevant parties. Position papers are to be served by 16 November 2007 and in the absence of such papers, the UK Coal dust model will be implemented from 19 November. If issues remain, then the resolution of all issues will be made by the Presiding Judge at the December 2007 hearing. It is the Department's belief that there will be issues that will require the Judge's attention in December.

Public Holidays: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consideration he has given to moving one public holiday in Wales to St. David's Day; and what estimate he has made of the costs associated with such a move. [162901]

Mr. McFadden: The present pattern of bank holidays in the United Kingdom is well established and accepted, and the Government have no current plans to change the arrangements.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 12 November 2007

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Archaeology: Finance

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has for funding of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in the period 2008 to 2012; what plans he has to provide support for finds liaison officers; and if he will make a statement. [162101]

Margaret Hodge: The Portable Antiquities Scheme is funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). Therefore, any decisions on its future funding will be taken by the MLA.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been allocated to the Portable Antiquities Scheme in each of the financial years to 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [163593]

Margaret Hodge: The funding for the Portable Antiquities Scheme is a matter for the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. No final decisions have yet been made by the MLA on future funding of the scheme.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in recording archaeological finds made by members of the public; and if he will make a statement. [163595]

Margaret Hodge: An assessment of MLA's effectiveness against all the targets set in its Funding Agreement, including those for the Portable Antiquities Scheme, was carried out earlier this year.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme has made a significant contribution to encouraging the reporting of archaeological finds by members of the public.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council on the future funding of the Portable Antiquities Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [163596]

Margaret Hodge: An assessment of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council's (MLA) effectiveness against all the targets set in its Funding Agreement, including those for the Portable Antiquities Scheme, was carried out earlier this year.

Decisions regarding future funding for the Portable Antiquities Scheme are the responsibility of the MLA.

Community Development

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the next meeting of the organisations taking part in the Where We Live programme will take place; and whether a representative from his Department will attend. [163517]

Margaret Hodge: The Where We Live programme is now known as Living Places. The programme is delivered through a partnership between the five leading national cultural agencies, the DCMS, the Department for Committee and Local Government and the regional cultural consortiums.

The Living Places Officers Group will meet on Monday 19 November 2007. The Living Places Chief Executives meeting will take place in January 2008 (date to be confirmed). A representative from DCMS is expected to attend both.

Departmental Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport at which functions during the last 12 months his Department incurred hospitality expenses and how much has been incurred on each occasion. [162796]

Margaret Hodge: Expenditure on official hospitality is made in accordance with the principles of Government Accounting, the Treasury handbook Regularity and Propriety and the Department's internal guidance on hospitality. The Department's expenditure on official functions during the last year (to October 2007) was £5,970. Details of individual functions are not held centrally and can be identified only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish the report by Mike Dixon on the appointment of a departmental chief scientific adviser; and if he will make a statement. [163084]

James Purnell: I am due to meet the Government Chief Scientist to discuss Dr. Dixon's report and consider what approach is most appropriate for my Department. I expect to publish the report, alongside our response, in the new year.

Digital Broadcasting: East of England

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the take-up of digital television in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* the east of England was at the most recent date for which figures are available. [162598]

James Purnell: We do not collect statistics based on Government regions or counties. According to Digital UK/Ofcom figures, take-up for the Anglia region is 77 per cent.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme: East of England

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of households he estimates will qualify for assistance in switching over to digital television in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* the east of England. [162599]

James Purnell: The information is not available in the format requested. We estimate that around 615,000 households in the east of England area will be eligible for assistance from the digital switchover help scheme. Of these, 85,000 eligible households are in Suffolk.

Notes:

1. Eligibility for help from the digital switchover help scheme will be by benefit unit rather than the whole household definition used by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Northern Ireland Office to forecast future household growth. The scheme definition of eligible households mirrors Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) definition of a benefit unit: a couple (which from December 2005 includes gay couples) and any dependent children. It excludes adults deemed to be non-dependents who, if eligible, will be able to claim assistance from the help scheme in their own right.

2. The estimates use data from the Department for Work and Pensions Client Group Analysis for November 2005 adjusted by changes in future household and benefits growth for the period from 2005 until the date switchover takes place in the relevant area.

3. The figures do not include households where the person qualifying for help under the scheme is registered blind or registered partially sighted who qualify on grounds of registration rather than on grounds of age or entitlement to disability benefits.

Television: Licensing

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much the TV Licensing authority has taken in fines in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2004; [162691]

(2) how many fines the TV Licensing Authority issued in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2004. [162693]

James Purnell: Fines are issued and collected by the courts, not TV Licensing. According to information reported to the Ministry of Justice (formerly Home Office) court proceedings database, 96,192 persons were fined in 2004 for offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Acts 1949 and 1967 and the Communications Act 2003, the majority of which relate to TV licence evasion. The figure for 2005 was 118,029. The total amount of fines collected is not recorded centrally.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the TV Licensing authority is able to estimate the number of people who own a television but do not have a licence. [162692]

James Purnell: The BBC estimates the evasion rate across the UK to be 5.1 per cent. The estimated number of evaders is 1.32 million.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many households in each constituency in Northern Ireland were in receipt of the free television licence for over 75s at the latest date for which figures are available. [163530]

James Purnell: TV Licensing, which administers free television licences for people aged 75 or over as an agent for the BBC, and provide geographical breakdowns of the number of free licences issued. However, the estimated number of households in each constituency in Northern Ireland with at least one person aged 75 or over claiming the winter fuel payment in 2005-06, based on records held by the Northern Ireland Department for Social Development, was as follows:

Parliamentary constituency	*Estimated number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over claiming the winter fuel payment, 2005-06*[1]
Belfast East	6,049
Belfast North	5,359
Belfast South	5,180
Belfast West	3,654
East Antrim	4,295
East Londonderry	4,261
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	4,611
Foyle	3,681
Lagan Valley	5,044
Mid Ulster	3,939
Newry and Armagh	4,685
North Antrim	5,683
North Down	5,644
South Antrim	4,276
South Down	5,167
Strangford	5,007
Upper Bann	4,728
West Tyrone	3,875
Missing postcode[1]	275
Total	85,413

[1] In producing this analysis, individual records were attributed to parliamentary constituencies (PC's) on the basis of their postcode. Not all records can be correctly allocated to a PC using this method.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people in Northern Ireland were penalised for not having a valid television licence in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [163531]

James Purnell: The Northern Ireland Court Service only began collecting such data in November 2006 and so the information requested is not available.

Tourism

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate has been made of the value of tourism to the UK economy. [163514]

Margaret Hodge: The UK's tourism industry was worth £85 billion in 2005, representing nearly 3.5 per cent. of the total economy in terms of gross value added. The industry's turnover was made up as follows:

	£ billion
Spending by UK residents on tourism day visits	44.3
Spending by UK residents on overnight domestic trips	22.7
Spending by inbound visitors to the UK	14.2
Fares paid to UK carriers by overseas residents	2.8
Imputed rent from second home ownership	0.9

VisitBritain: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the marketing budget for VisitBritain is in 2007-08. [163078]

Margaret Hodge: VisitBritain's allocation of DCMS grant in aid for 2007-08 is £49.9 million. VisitBritain has told us that it will spend £35.5 million on overseas marketing and the remaining £14.4 million on domestic marketing.

In addition, a further grant of £750,000 was made to VisitBritain in August 2007 for additional marketing support for the domestic tourism industry, following the flooding in July.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Community Support Officers: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police community support officers there were in each Welsh police force in each year since they were introduced; [162844]

(2) how many police officers there were in each Welsh police force in each year since 1997. [162845]

Mr. McNulty: The information is shown in the following tables.

Police officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2007

	31 March										
Police force	*1997[3]*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001[4]*	*2002*	*2003[5]*	*2004[5]*	*2005[5]*	*2006[5]*	*2007[5]*
Dyfed-Powys	1,005	1,002	1,026	1,040	1,055	1,132	1,149	1,160	1,174	1,182	1,177
Gwent	1,243	1,233	1,247	1,264	1,274	1,333	1,341	1,372	1,438	1,467	1,493
North Wales	1,369	1,396	1,391	1,403	1,444	1,506	1,539	1,603	1,652	1,617	1,591
South Wales	2,976	2,986	2,981	2,926	3,154	3,222	3,239	3,279	3,281	3,263	3,297

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] Boundary changes on 1 April 1996 transferred resources for the policing of the Rhymney Valley from South Wales Police to Gwent Police.
[4] Boundary changes on 1 April 2000 transferred some resources from the Metropolitan Police to Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey police forces.
[5] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

Police community support officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2007[3]

	31 March				
Police force	*2003*	*2004*	*2005[4]*	*2006[4]*	*2007[4]*
Dyfed-Powys	0	5	25	26	77
Gwent	30	45	77	76	105
North Wales	0	0	59	58	145
South Wales	0	59	107	111	314

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Full-time equivalent includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data is not available prior to 2002-03.
[4] Strength figures as at 31 March 2005 onwards include those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore these figures are not comparable with those provided for other years in the table.

Crimes of Violence: Children

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children under the age of 18 in Milton Keynes have been charged with assault in each year between 1995 and 2007. [162747]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Neighbourhood Watch schemes are active; how many of those receive Government funding; how many there are in each Government region; and if she will make a statement. [162537]

Mr. Coaker: Neighbourhood Watch schemes are set up on a voluntary basis and are not subject to monitoring by the Government. It is therefore not possible to state how many schemes are currently active. The Government do not directly fund schemes or associations but provide support through the funding of public liability insurance, publications and literature, maintenance of a website and managing the Neighbourhood Watch logo.

As of 1 November 2007, 127,000 Neighbourhood Watch schemes in England and Wales had registered for public liability insurance via the Home Office Neighbourhood Watch website.

Police: Early Retirement

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers retired on grounds of ill health in each year since 1997. [162843]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and are given in the following table.

Police officer medical retirements[1] (FTE)[2] for England and Wales from 1996-97 to 2004-05[3]

	Number
1996-97	2,012
1997-98	1,811
1998-99	1,642
1999-2000	1,232
2000-01	1,209
2001-02	1,114
2002-03	819
2003-04	418
2004-05	405

[1] Data collated on behalf of and published by HMIC. HMIC have advised that assaults data will no longer be published in their Annual Report and that the data for 2004-05 is the last series of these data to be published.

[2] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[3] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.

Police: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* civilian staff serving with English police forces live in Wales. [162505]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally in the police personnel statistics.

Prosecutions: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports to police of criminal activity in Milton Keynes have not led to prosecution in each year between 1997 and 2007. [162748]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Terrorism: Nuclear Weapons

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to amend the Terrorism Act 2000 to include the use of radiological weapons in the list of weapons and substances that fall within the scope of the Act. [162037]

Mr. McNulty: We keep all our legislation under review and the issue of whether to include radiological weapons in the list of weapons and substances that fall within the scope of the Terrorism Act 2000 is currently being considered.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Birds: Conservation

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he intends to make a decision on the continuation of the Bird Registration Scheme under section 7 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; and if he will make a statement. [162329]

Joan Ruddock: No decision has been made on any changes to the Bird Registration Scheme. It is anticipated that any changes that were made would be in force by 1 October 2008.

Climate Change

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the level of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK was from *(a)* power generation, *(b)* road transport, *(c)* air travel, *(d)* industry, *(e)* buildings, *(f)* households and *(g)* other sources in each year since 1990. [162276]

Mr. Woolas: Tables 1 and 2 show figures for UK greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on a source basis and end user basis, respectively. The figures are taken from the UK Climate Change Programme Annual Report, which was laid before Parliament on 26 July.

Emissions arising from electricity are attributed to the consumer, rather than the power station, in the end user basis. Figures are given for 1990-2005, the latest year for which data is available. Emissions data from 2006 will be available in January 2008.

Disaggregated transport emissions are given in Table 3. It should be noted that emissions from domestic aviation are included in our Kyoto target, excluding emissions from international aviation. Emissions from households are counted under "residential", emissions from commercial properties under "business", and emissions from public buildings, including schools and hospitals, under "public". The UK does not separately report emissions from buildings.

Table 1: UK GHG emissions by sector, 1990-2005, on a source basis

Million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent

	Base year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Power supply	272.9	272.9	272.4	261.3	242.0	231.8	231.4	232.3	216.0
Business	113.3	111.9	114.0	109.7	109.8	110.6	108.1	110.9	110.5
Industrial processes	81.9	81.5	90.2	87.6	91.5	86.9	82.6	94.1	87.5

Table 1: UK GHG emissions by sector, 1990-2005, on a source basis

Million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent

	Base year	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*
Transport	124.3	124.3	122.6	123.8	125.4	125.7	125.0	130.1	131.7
Residential	59.3	59.3	58.8	57.3	56.6	57.4	57.2	57.7	58.2
Public	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.3	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.5
Agriculture	55.3	53.7	51.9	46.5	42.9	44.7	44.2	45.0	46.5
Land use change	13.6	13.6	14.5	15.2	13.8	13.5	13.3	14.3	13.9
Waste	52.8	52.8	52.1	50.9	49.5	48.5	46.9	45.5	41.8
Total	776.4	773.0	779.2	754.4	732.6	720.0	709.7	730.7	706.6

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Power supply	217.3	204.6	213.3	222.6	220.6	225.8	224.3	225.8
Business	110.4	112.7	113.9	114.5	104.8	106.7	104.0	104.3
Industrial processes	90.2	89.6	90.2	92.6	89.3	90.4	92.0	88.1
Transport	130.9	132.0	131.3	131.2	133.5	134.5	136.2	137.5
Residential	57.0	56.3	54.1	51.3	51.6	50.9	50.7	49.7
Public	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-1.1	-1.2	-1.9	-2.0
Agriculture	43.5	26.7	23.9	21.3	17.7	18.5	17.9	17.2
Land use change	13.3	13.1	12.3	12.6	10.8	10.4	11.3	11.2
Waste	39.0	35.6	33.5	29.4	27.0	23.9	22.4	22.1
Total	701.6	670.4	672.0	674.9	654.3	660.0	657.0	653.8

Table 2 : UK GHG emissions by sector, 1990 to 2005, on an end user basis

Million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent

	Base year	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*
Business	242.2	240.8	238.2	224.3	216.1	211.0	208.9	210.4	204.5
Industrial processes	58.6	57.0	54.9	49.4	45.7	47.2	46.9	47.9	49.4
Transport	148.0	148.0	145.8	147.7	150.7	151.0	151.5	156.9	157.7
Residential	168.3	167.9	178.2	171.7	167.4	159.5	152.8	165.1	149.9
Public	31.1	31.1	34.3	36.1	29.5	28.9	28.1	28.9	26.4
Agriculture	63.1	63.1	62.6	60.9	59.9	60.6	60.3	60.7	61.0
Land use change	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.3	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.5
Waste	52.8	52.8	52.1	50.9	49.5	48.5	46.9	45.5	41.8
Exports	9.4	9.4	10.2	11.1	12.6	12.4	13.2	14.3	15.5
Total	776.4	773.0	779.2	754.4	732.6	720.0	709.7	730.7	706.6

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Business	203.9	2Q1.2	208.7	214.0	202.0	206.7	203.5	204.9
Industrial processes	46.1	29.2	26.2	23.1	19.2	19.9	19.2	18.4
Transport	156.6	157.1	156.5	156.8	160.4	165.0	164.9	166.5
Residential	155.6	150.4	154.3	161.1	155.8	158.0	159.5	155.4
Public	25.6	24.7	23.7	24.3	21.8	21.5	22.3	22.2
Agriculture	59.8	58.9	56.8	54.1	54.5	53.6	53.5	52.4
Land use change	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-1.1	-1.2	-1.9	-2.0
Waste	39.0	35.6	33.5	29.4	27.0	23.9	22.4	22.1
Exports	14.9	13.6	13.0	12.5	14.6	12.5	13.7	14.0
Total	701.6	670.4	672.0	674.9	654.3	660.0	657.0	653.8

Table 3: UK carbon dioxide emissions from transport, 1990 to 2005, on a source basis

Million tonnes

	Road transport	*Domestic aviation*	*International aviation*
1990	109.4	1.3	15.7
1991	108.6	1.2	15.4
1992	110.1	1.3	17.1
1993	111.3	1.3	18.2
1994	111.9	1.2	18.9
1995	110.9	1.3	20.1

Table 3: UK carbon dioxide emissions from transport, 1990 to 2005, on a source basis

Million tonnes

	Road transport	*Domestic aviation*	*International aviation*
1996	115.2	1.4	21.3
1997	116.6	1.5	22.7
1998	115.9	1.6	25.3
1999	116.8	1.8	27.4
2000	116.0	2.0	30.3
2001	116.0	2.1	29.5

Table 3: UK carbon dioxide emissions from transport, 1990 to 2005, on a source basis

			Million tonnes
	Road transport	*Domestic aviation*	*International aviation*
2002	118.4	2.1	28.9
2003	118.2	2.1	29.6
2004	119.4	2.3	33.1
2005	119.9	2.5	35.0

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account is taken of initiatives to reduce emissions and develop clean energy technologies in determining policy on market mechanisms, with particular reference to the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [162959]

Mr. Woolas: Market mechanisms, such as the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), play an extremely important role in tackling climate change by encouraging the cost of carbon to be included in production and consumption decisions.

However, as the Stern review highlighted, by itself carbon pricing will not be sufficient to tackle climate change cost effectively for the longer-term. The Stern review suggested that a three-pronged approach is necessary for tackling climate change: carbon pricing, technology policy, and the removal of other barriers, such as consumer inertia and misaligned incentives.

The Stern report highlighted that technology policy was an important requirement for bringing down the cost of carbon abatement over time and ensuring the necessary degree of technological development. Under the EU ETS the allocations for new entrants are based on best available technology benchmarks, which helps to ensure that new installations are developing clean and efficient processes.

The Government agree with Stern's assessment and regards initiatives to develop clean technologies as important complements to carbon pricing mechanisms such as the EU ETS.

Flood Control: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to review the system on which funding is allocated for flood defences. [162176]

Mr. Woolas: Following public consultation in the spring, a set of measures has been developed to provide greater clarity on the outcomes to be achieved from flood and coastal erosion risk management funding and policies.

The consultation included a range of approaches to investment prioritisation. We are working with the Environment Agency to develop an effective prioritisation process for the capital improvement programme in order to deliver the outcomes desired in future years. We anticipate that targets will be set for the capital programme on the basis of the new Outcome Measures from the next financial year and for maintenance activities from 2009-10.

Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who has responsibility for measures to *(a)* avoid and *(b)* mitigate surface water flooding. [161892]

Mr. Woolas: The information is as follows:

(a) New planning policy published by the Department for Communities and Local Government—Planning Policy Statement 25—aims to avoid and manage the risk of flooding to new development from all sources. Planning authorities should direct development to areas at least risk of flooding and consider how land use planning can reduce the risk of surface water flooding through the development of Surface Water Management Plans and sustainable drainage systems.

(b) For existing development, the impacts of surface water flooding can be mitigated by providing safe overland routes for the discharge of excess flows or improvements to below ground drainage. Below ground drainage is largely the responsibility of the water and sewerage companies for the public sewerage system, but also highway authorities for road drainage and private owners for drains and culverts on their land. Local planning authorities can ensure that drainage arrangements for surface water from new development do not impact on other areas.

For the future, DEFRA is currently funding 15 pilot projects to identify improvements to the integrated management of urban drainage. We also intend to give the Environment Agency a strategic overview of all forms of flood risk, including risk from surface water.

Floods: Insurance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from insurance companies on a review of the statement of principles in relation to flooding. [161889]

Mr. Woolas: The Association of British Insurers (ABI)'s Statement of Principles sets out the commitments made by ABI members towards the continued availability of flood insurance cover, together with associated commitments by Government on effective flood risk management. We have a continuing dialogue with the insurance industry at both ministerial and official level and have agreed to work with the ABI to review the Statement over the coming months.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to ensure that people who live in flood risk areas can afford insurance excesses following claims made as a result of flooding. [162030]

Mr. Woolas: We are continuing to work with the Association of British Insurers (ABI) to support our mutual aim of ensuring continued widespread availability of flood insurance cover. The ABI's commitments on this and associated undertakings by

Government on effective flood risk management are set out in the Statement of Principles.

Premiums and excesses are not covered by the Statement. These will reflect different degrees of risk and are a matter for individual insurers. Following the recent flooding, a Flood Recovery working group, consisting of representatives from Government departments and the ABI, has been established to consider issues relating to flood recovery and insurance.

The Government have also asked the Financial Inclusion Taskforce to work with the insurance industry to develop options for promoting increased take-up of key insurance products among financially excluded households. The Government will consider the Taskforce's recommendations in developing a detailed action plan for financial inclusion later this year.

TREASURY

Assets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value was of the indexation relief claimed on the disposal of *(a)* business assets and *(b)* non-business assets in each year since 1997. [162907]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the total cost of the indexation allowance to the Exchequer are published in Table A3.1 of the 2007 Financial Statement and Budget report. Estimates for 2007-08 are published in Table 7 of the 2007 Tax Ready Reckoner.

Figures for the value of indexation relief claimed split by type of asset are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of taper relief since inception on the length of time *(a)* business and *(b)* non-business assets were held. [162968]

Jane Kennedy: Table 14.9 of the capital gains tax National Statistics provides statistics on the distribution of length of time assets have been held by type of asset.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/capital_gains/menu.htm

Research carried out by Ipsos MORI on taxpayers' perceptions of the capital gains tax regime was published in December 2006.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/cgt-final-report26.pdf

Capital Gains Tax

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the receipts from capital gains tax were in each month since May 1997. [162979]

Jane Kennedy: Annual receipts of capital gains tax are available in National Statistics table 1.2 on the HMRC website at the following address:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/menu.htm.

Figures for monthly receipts of capital gains tax are not available.

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he plans to introduce tax relief from the new flat rate of capital gains tax announced in his pre-Budget report for gains made on investments in second homes; [163280]

(2) what steps he will take to monitor the effect of the changes to capital gains tax announced in his pre-Budget report on the *(a)* number of and *(b)* trends in purchasing second homes. [163281]

Jane Kennedy: The 2007 pre-Budget report announced a reform of the capital gains tax regime. The Government keep all aspects of tax policy under review.

Civil Servants: Yorkshire and Humberside

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many jobs in the Civil Service there were in *(a)* Yorkshire and Humberside and *(b)* Huddersfield in 1997; and how many there are in each area. [162164]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 November 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many jobs in the Civil Service there were in *(a)* Yorkshire and Humberside and *(b)* Huddersfield in 1997; and how many there are in each area now. (162164)

The closest measure available is the full time equivalent number of people in employment in the civil service. These statistics are published only at the level of the Government Offices for the Regions i.e. Yorkshire and the Humber. In order to provide more detailed information, an ad hoc analysis has been required. This analysis is based on the Mandate survey which currently provides approximately 90 per cent. coverage of Civil Service departments and agencies. The most detailed level of information available is for Kirklees (including Huddersfield).

Civil service employment

		Full-time equivalents
	Yorkshire and the Humber	*Civil service (Mandate only)-Kirklees (including Huddersfield)*
1997 (1 April)	32,270	1,030
2006 (30 September)	39,250	1,070

Source:
Civil Service Statistics/Mandate

Death: Eastern Region

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many winter excess deaths there were in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk in each of the last five years. [162584]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many winter excess deaths there were in (a) the East of England and (b) Suffolk in each of the last five years. (162584)

Estimates of excess winter deaths relate to a four-month period from December of one year to March of the next year. The table below provides the number of excess winter deaths in (a) the East of England government office region and (b) Suffolk county for the years 2000/01 to 2004/05 (the latest available):

Table 1: Excess winter deaths[1,2], East of England Government office region and Suffolk county[3], 2000-01 to 2004-05

Winter	East of England	Suffolk
	Deaths (persons)	
2000-01	2,430	250
2001-02	2,790	370
2002-03	2,480	360
2003-04	2,280	270
2004-05	3,290	440

[1] The estimated number of excess winter deaths is the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Data are based on deaths occurring in each month.
[3] Using boundaries as of 2007 for all years.

Industrial Building Allowances: Hotels

Mr. Cox: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many hotel businesses are claiming the industrial buildings allowance. [162875]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs publishes information on the total industrial buildings allowances claimed against corporation tax broken down by sector. The latest information, to 2005, is available here:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11-10.pdf

Inheritance Tax: Wales

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many estates of persons resident in Wales were liable to inheritance tax in each of the last three financial years. [163512]

Jane Kennedy: It is not possible to provide figures for England and Wales separately.

Manpower: Government Departments

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library copies of the employee surveys relating to his Department for *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [162109]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer the former Financial Secretary, my hon. Friend the Member for Westminster (Mr. Healey) gave on 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1489W.

National Insurance Contributions

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was raised from national insurance contributions in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07. [163394]

Jane Kennedy: Information on receipts of national insurance contributions is published in Table 1.2 on the HMRC website. A link to the most recent publication is

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/table1-2.pdf

Northern Rock

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been paid by his Department to Goldman Sachs for its advice on Northern Rock. [162087]

Kitty Ussher: No money has yet been paid to Goldman Sachs for its advice on Northern Rock.

Pay

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of earnings growth was for *(a)* male and *(b)* female employees aged (i) 18 to 29, (ii) 30 to 39, (iii) 40 to 49, (iv) 50 to 59 and (v) 60 years and over in each year since 1997. [162304]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karren Dunnell, dated 12 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of earnings growth was for *(a)* male and *(b)* female employees aged (i) 18 to 29, (ii) 30 to 39, (iii) 40 to 49, (iv) 50 to 59 and (v) 60 years and over in each year since 1997. (162304)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and are provided for all full-time employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

I attach tables showing median gross weekly earnings for full-time males and full-time females by age from 1997 to 2007.

Gross weekly pay for full-time male employee jobs[a] by age

	All employees	Percentage growth	18-21	Percentage growth	22-29	Percentage growth
1997	357	—	198	—	295	—
1998	373	4.4	205	3.7	309	4.6
1999	384	3.0	220	7.2	320	3.7
2000	398	3.6	220	0.0	333	4.0
2001	416	4.5	230	4.7	349	5.0
2002	430	3.5	239	3.6	362	3.7
2003	445	3.4	244	2.3	369	2.0
2004excl	463	4.1	250	2.5	382	3.5

	30-39	Percentage growth	40-49	Percentage growth	50+[4]	Percentage growth
1997	380	—	416.1	—	380	—
1998	396	4.0	432.2	3.9	376	4.4

	30-39	Percentage growth	40-49	Percentage growth	50+[d]	Percentage growth
1999	405	2.2	444.9	2.9	387	3.0
2000	421	4.2	456.5	2.6	397	2.7
2001	440	4.4	472.7	3.5	416	4.6
2002	452	2.8	488.5	3.3	430	3.4
2003	474	4.8	505.0	3.4	443	3.2
2004excl	491	3.6	529.1	4.8	462	4.2

	All employees	Percentage growth	18-21	Percentage growth	22-29	Percentage growth	30-39	Percentage growth
2004inc[b]	460	—	250	—	376	—	488	—
2005	471	2.4	253	1.4	380	1.1	508	4.0
2006	487	3.4	262	3.6	392	3.2	527	3.9
2006[c]	484	—	262	—	391	—	525	—
2007	498	2.9	275	5.3	403	3.0	540	2.8

	40-49	Percentage growth	50-59	Percentage growth	60+	Percentage growth
2004inc[b]	526	—	482	—	376	—
2005	540	2.8	498	3.3	398	5.8
2006	563	4.2	517	3.8	422	6.0
2006[c]	559	—	516	—	422	—
2007	575	3.0	534	3.4	442	4.9

[a]. Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[b] In 2004 additional supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Figures are presented both excluding and including the additional surveys for comparison purposes.
[c]. In 2006 a small number of methodological changes were introduced to improve the quality of the survey These include changes to the sample design itself, as well as the introduction of an automatic occupation coding tool. Figures are presented both excluding and including these changes for comparison purposes.
[d]. Figures for 50-59 year olds and 60+ have only been produced since 2004. Prior to this the top age category produced was 50+.

Gross weekly pay for full-time female employee jobs by age

	All employees	Percentage growth	18-21	Percentage growth	22-29	Percentage growth
1997	265.2	—	170	—	253	—
1998	276.5	4.2	177	4.2	264	4.0
1999	288.5	4.3	186	4.8	277	5.3
2000	298.1	3.3	192	3.2	288	3.8
2001	314.3	5.4	202	5.6	307	6.7
2002	330.7	5.2	212	4.6	325	5.7
2003	343.0	3.7	221	4.3	330	1.7
2004excl	360.8	5.2	230	4.4	349	5.8

	30-39	Percentage growth	40-49	Percentage growth	50+[d]	Percentage growth
1997	307	—	289	—	253	—
1998	319	3.7	297	2.7	265	4.9
1999	332	4.2	311	4.8	277	4.2
2000	341	2.7	321	3.1	286	3.3
2001	359	5.2	333	3.6	301	5.3
2002	375	4.5	349	4.9	314	4.2
2003	388	3.5	362	3.7	237	4.3
2004excl	411	6.0	384	6.1	346	5.8

	All employees	Percentage growth	18-21	Percentage growth	22-29	Percentage growth	30-39	Percentage growth
2004inc[b]	356.7	—	228	—	345	—408	—380	—350
2005	371.4	4.1	233	1.9	353	2.2	426	4.5
2006	385.8	3.9	240	3.2	364	3.3	448	5.2
2006[c]	383.3	240	363	444	410	385	344	
2007	394.0	2.8	254	5.7	374	3.1	460	3.6

	40-49	Percentage growth	50-59	Percentage growth	60+d	Percentage growth
2004inc[b]	380	—	350	—	306	—
2005	396	4.1	374	6.9	319	4.3
2006	415	4.9	388	3.8	345	8.1
2006[c]	410	—	385	—	344	—
2007	420	2.4	396	2.9	357	4.0

[a]. Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[b] In 2004 additional supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Figures are presented both excluding and including the additional surveys for comparison purposes.
[c]. In 2006 a small number of methodological changes were introduced to improve the quality of the survey These include changes to the sample design itself, as well as the introduction of an automatic occupation coding tool. Figures are presented both excluding and including these changes for comparison purposes.
[d]. Figures for 50-59 year olds and 60+ have only been produced since 2004. Prior to this the top age category produced was 50+.

Population

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people who were born in Wales now live in England; and how many who were born in England now live in Wales. [162502]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many people who were born in Wales now live in England; and how many who were born in England now live in Wales. (162502)

At the time, of the 2001 Census, there were 609,711 people born in Wales living in England and 589,828 people born in England living in Wales. These figures have been extracted from 2001 Census Table KS05—Country of Birth.

Revenue and Customs: Buildings

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors are taken into account in decisions on consolidation of the HM Revenue and Customs estate at regional level. [162018]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC considers the impact of its plans on customers, staff, business efficiency, diversity and the local community before making decisions. The plans are subject to a widespread consultation process with staff, trade unions, MPs, local authorities and other interests. This provides an opportunity for further information to be given to the HMRC review team.

Tax Allowances

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the value of unutilised indexation relief. [162978]

Jane Kennedy: There are no estimates of the value of unutilised indexation relief. Estimates of the cost of the indexation allowance to the exchequer are published in table A3.1 of the 2007 Financial Statement and Budget Report. Estimates for 2007-08 are published in table 7 of the 2007 Tax Ready Reckoner.

Taxation: Car Allowances

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review *(a)* the upper ceiling on mileage payments for volunteer car drivers of 40p per mile and *(b)* the threshold of 10,000 miles above which mileage allowances are taxed. [162064]

Jane Kennedy: There is no upper ceiling on mileage payments for volunteer car drivers. HMRC allows volunteers to use the Approved Mileage Allowance Payment (AMAP) rate for convenience, but it is not mandatory and volunteer drivers can claim tax relief for the full cost of motoring by completing a return, if they wish to do so.

Taxation: Self-Assessment

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fines were issued for the late return of income tax returns by each tax office in England and Wales in each year from 2000 to 2005; and how many of those fines were subsequently refunded in each of those years. [162066]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the written reply given on 17 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1517W. The table provides details of penalty notices issued for failure to file self-assessment tax returns by the due date for the latest full years 2005-06 and 2006-07. As stated in the earlier reply, no details are held regarding the numbers of penalties subsequently refunded.

Locations	2005-06	2006-07
Beds/W. Herts	25,826	26,429
Berks.	16,957	16,841
Birm Solihull	28,396	29,720
Bris/N. Somst	34,277	36,951
Cambs.	18,233	18,676
Cent. Yorks	23,966	25,556
Chapel W.	85,694	82,835
Claims	—	102
Cornwll/Plym	51,151	54,942
Cumbria	7,465	7,229
Devon	31,837	33,094
Dors/S. Wilts	5,848	6,144
E. Ches/S. Lancs	23,915	25,212
E. Hamp/Wight	35,568	40,653
E. Herts/W. Ess	21,134	20,041

Locations	2005-06	2006-07
E. Lancs	20,257	20,544
G. Belfast	11,899	12,935
Glos/N. Wilts	19,123	19,044
Humber	20,659	20,730
Kent	54,822	54,828
LBO	1,158	1,167
Leic/Northnt	51,102	61,639
Lincoln	12,514	12,670
Lisburn	3,410	3,752
London	1,592	902
Lothians	42,264	51,709
Manchester	22,390	22,529
Merseyside	26,821	27,322
Midlands W	13,432	13,564
N. E. Metro	46,208	50,781
N. I. Counties	27,712	30,293
Norfolk	25,804	26,621
Northumbria	15,427	15,902
Notts/Derby	27,479	29,780
N. Wales	25,939	30,309
NW Lancs	17,456	17,546
NW Mids/Shrop	21,559	24,236
N. Yorks	14,416	14,179
Oxon/Bucks	24,449	23,760
PDI	3,529	3,009
CNR	38,832	34,865
Scot Cent	14,502	12,490
Scot East	8,793	7,745
Scotland West	13,907	11,616
Scot North	9,736	8,374
Scot Sch E W	52,460	62,959
Scot South	14,086	13,856
Sefton	94,959	102,608
S. Essex	20,716	19,184
Somerset	11,902	12,393
Staffs.	17,930	18,555
Suff and N. Ex	31,644	33,143
Surr/N. Hamp	23,007	22,438
Sussex	35,304	37,199
S. Wales	58,756	61,207
S. Yorks	25,759	27,838
Tees Valley	52,822	55,698
Trusts	17,578	15,885
Warck/Cov	20,309	20,178
Wear/S. Tyne	12,630	12,537
W. Hampshire	24,497	26,180
W. Lancs/W. Ches	26,342	28,540
Worcs/Herefd	14,037	14,139
W. Wales	15,891	16,721
W. York/Cravn	40,796	44,717
Total	1,658,883	1,735,241

VAT

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many and what proportion of VAT registration applications were processed within the target time in each of the last three calendar months; [162849]

(2) how many and what proportion of VAT registration applications received in 2007 were not processed within *(a)* 40, *(b)* 50 and *(c)* 60 days; [162850]

(3) what the average processing time for VAT registration applications has been for each VAT registration unit since 31 July. [162834]

Jane Kennedy: The number and proportion of VAT registration applications processed within target time (14 days) in August, September and October 2007 are set out in the following table. The figures for August and September have been updated since the answer I gave on 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 257W, to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles).[1]

Month	Number processed within target time	Percentage processed within target time
August	3,844	16
September	5,597	22
October	14,493	44

These latest figures represent an upturn in HMRC performance, and early signs of success for the improvement measures outlined in my earlier response. This upturn has taken place against an operational background that continues to present challenges, and alongside the ongoing need to operate pre-registration checks to protect the Exchequer against serious frauds such as Missing Trader Intra-Community (MTIC) fraud.

Vulture Funds

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he had discussions with Ministers from other EU states to consider co-ordinated action to outlaw the activities of vulture funds; and if he will make a statement. [162390]

Kitty Ussher: The UK is determined to stop so-called "vulture" funds profiting from poor countries. The UK has been working through the G7 and the Paris Club to tackle this problem. In addition, Ministers have a range of discussions with EU and other international partners on international development and related issues.

We are also focusing on creating a level playing field in which heavily indebted poor countries heavily indebted poor countries countries have the resources and expertise to defend themselves. In this context, we are working with the African Development Bank to develop proposals for a legal assistance facility to ensure that countries have access to high-quality legal advice to help them fight law suits.

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the activities of vulture funds were discussed at the recent annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank; and if he will make a statement. [162391]

Kitty Ussher: The Chancellor raised this issue with G7 Finance Ministers at the Annual Meetings. In their statement, Finance Ministers reiterated their concern about the problem of aggressive litigation against HIP countries. They welcomed the steps already

1. *[Official Report, 15 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 10MC.]*

taken by the Paris Club to address this problem and urged all sovereign creditors not to sell on claims on HIPCs. G7 Finance Ministers are examining additional steps that might be taken to address this problem.

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's policy is on calls by the Finance Ministers of heavily indebted poor countries for *(a)* codes of conduct to be agreed for creditors not to sell sovereign debts on secondary markets and *(b)* international lawyers not to represent litigants who sue poor countries in pursuit of these debts; and if he will make a statement. [162392]

Kitty Ussher: With respect to the sale of debts, Paris Club creditors have publicly stated their commitment not to sell their claims on HIPCs to creditors that might not be willing to implement the HIPC initiative. In their October statement, G7 Finance Ministers welcomed this step and urged all sovereign creditors not to sell claims on HIPCs. We will take forward discussions on this issue in international forums and with private-sector creditors.

So far as legal representation is concerned, we believe the right approach is to focus on creating a level playing field in which HIP countries have the resources and expertise to defend themselves. In this context, we are working with the African Development Bank to develop proposals for a legal assistance facility to ensure that countries have access to high quality legal advice to help them fight law suits.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has set HM Customs and Revenue a date by which to complete the review of tax credit cases referred to in the written statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 62-3WS, on tax credit administration; [162386]

(2) how many households HM Customs and Revenue has written to in respect of tax credit awards for *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06 with reference to the written statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 62-3WS, on tax credit administration; [162387]

(3) what action he has taken to deal with the tax credit cases affected by the administrative problems described in the written statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 62-3WS on tax credit administration. [162395]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs has started a planned programme of work to review around 100,000 tax credits awards from 2003-04, 75,000 cases from 2004-05 and 75,000 from 2005-06, and has written to advise the households affected.

HMRC is working to complete this review as quickly as possible.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the written statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 62-3WS on tax credit administration, (1) how many tax credit claimants have were mistakenly notified by HM Revenue and Customs that their finalised tax credit awards had been reopened incorrectly and that overpayments would be remitted, and what the value was of the remittances made to such tax credits claimants; [162396]

(2) how many tax credit claimants were notified by HM Revenue and Customs that their finalised tax credit awards had been reopened incorrectly and that overpayments would be remitted, and what the value was of the remittances made to such tax credits claimants. [162397]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs wrote to around 250,000 households in August and September about reviewing or inquiring into awards in order to correct an administrative error. The programme to take forward this action is now under way. No tax credits claimants have yet been advised that their overpayments will be remitted as a result of this exercise.

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the number of compensation payments due to errors and delays in tax credit office administration in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [163393]

Jane Kennedy: The circumstances in which HM Revenue and Customs will make compensation payments to its customers are explained in the Department's fact sheet 'Complaints and Putting Things Right', which is available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

For information on the number of compensation payments made each year for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 I refer the hon. Member to the reply that the Paymaster General gave the hon. Member for St. Albans (Anne Main) on 18 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1346W. The updated figure for the number of compensation payments for 2006-07 is estimated to be 7,800.

Welfare Tax Credits: Bexleyheath

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals in the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency were overpaid tax credits in each financial year since the inception of tax credits. [162074]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including information on overpayments and underpayments by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are available in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analyses" for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Information on the level of overpaid tax credit awards in 2006-07 will not be available until May 2008.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Northern Ireland and *(c)* the UK received overpayments of each type of tax credit in each of the last three years. [162254]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the numbers of families with tax credits awards, including overpayments and underpayments by country, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 are available in Table 1.1 in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analyses", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Information for over and under payments in 2006-07 will not be available until May 2008.

Information broken down by country for each type of tax credit is not available.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people in the UK received overpayments of more than £2,000 in each type of tax credit in each of the last three years; [162255]

(2) how many people received overpayments of more than £5,000 of each type of tax credit in the United Kingdom in each of the last three years. [162339]

Jane Kennedy: Information on the number of tax credit awards, by size of over and under payment in 2004-05 and 2005-06, is produced in Table 3 of the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments" for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Information for over and under payments in 2006-07 will not be available until May 2008.

Information broken down by size of over-or underpayment by each type of tax credit is not available.

Working Tax Credits

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in each parliamentary constituency have been in receipt of the incorrect level of working tax credit; and if he will make a statement. [163624]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including information on overpayments and underpayments by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for the years 2003-04,2004-05 and 2005-06 are available in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analyses", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

JUSTICE

Charles Roy Taylor

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) for what reasons Charles Roy Taylor has been committed in HMP Nottingham; for how long he has been committed; and if he will make a statement; [163008]

(2) for how long and for what reason Charles Roy Taylor has been committed to HMP Nottingham; and if he will make a statement. [163266]

Maria Eagle: My Department will not comment on individual prisoners.

Children: Video Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on its 2001 review of the effect of computer games on young children. [162751]

Mr. Hanson: This was an internal piece of work conducted in 2001 and there was no cost to the Department other than internal staff time.

Crown Courts: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff working in Crown Courts in England reside in Wales. [162503]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice currently employs 2,692 staff in the Crown Courts of Her Majesty's Courts Service agency—as at 30 September 2007. Of the employees who have recorded personal address details available on our Oracle HR system, a total of 60 staff or 2.3 per cent. are recorded as residing in Wales but working for our courts in England.

Crown court staff in England and Wales

Regions of Crown Courts /CCs	*Employee resides*	*Total residing in Wales*
North west region	Cheshire	51
	Clwyd	2
	Flintshire	4
	Wrexham	1
South west	Gwent	2
Total staff in Crown Courts—2,692	—	60

Police Custody

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convicted prisoners have been held overnight in police cells or custody suites in Wales; and for how many nights each prisoner has been so held, broken down by police force area. [162846]

Mr. Hanson: Figures for convicted prisoners are not held separately. Between 22 January and 7 November 2007, convicted and remand prisoners were held under Operation Safeguard in police cells in Wales on 3,863

occasions. The number of occasions does not correspond precisely to the number of prisoners: one occasion means one prisoner night in a police cell.

This total breaks down by police force as follows:

	Number
Dyfed Powys	615
South Wales	1,054
North Wales	1,478
Gwent	716

Police: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers in each of the Welsh prison establishments *(a)* retired on ill health grounds, *(b)* took early retirement and *(c)* were dismissed from the Prison Service in each year since 1997. [162847]

Mr. Hanson: Information on officer-grade staff leaving Welsh prisons is shown in the following table. Information is only available from 1998.

Prison officers, senior officers and principal officers leaving from Welsh prisons—1998 to 2007

Establishment	Reason	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Cardiff	Medical retirement	3	1	2	3	2	2	1	2	1	—
	Early retirement	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	—	—	2	1	—	—
	Dismissals	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	1	—
Swansea	Medical retirement	2	3	1	1	1	2	—	—	1	—
	Early retirement	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Dismissals	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Usk/ Prescoed	Medical retirement	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Early retirement	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Dismissals	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Parc	Medical retirement	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Early retirement	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Dismissals	2	6	5	2	2	1	1	9	6	8
Total	—	8	12	10	7	9	6	4	12	9	8

[1] Age at retirement was not recorded prior to 2002.

Youth Juries

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of the proposed pilot on youth juries is; what the objectives of the policy are; whether there are any plans to extend this beyond Lancashire; and if he will make a statement. [162400]

Mr. Hanson: Peer panels in Lancashire were awarded just under £487,500 under a the Treasury's Invest to Save award. In addition they were given a further £150,000 by local partners, the community safety partnership 'Safer Preston'. For the Treasury funds to be awarded over the three years, the project must meet the objectives agreed with the Treasury at the time of the bid.

The aim of peer panels is to reduce the number of young people reaching court unnecessarily, for petty low-level offences for which it is not always in the public interest to prosecute. This exciting and innovative scheme seeks to reduce the burden on Courts' and youth offender teams' time and resources which will allow them to deal with more serious cases more effectively.

The Government await the outcomes of the peer panel evaluations before any decisions are made on whether this scheme should be extended beyond Lancashire.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vehicles on the roads of Northern Ireland are estimated not to have road tax paid on them; and what assessment he has made of how this figure compares on a pro-rata basis with the other nations and regions of the United Kingdom. [163529]

Mr. Woodward: This is now a matter for the Northern Ireland administration.

Police: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will, with the Policing Board, review the underlying basis for consideration of

the location of the police training college in the light of the forthcoming availability as a potential police college of the Ballykelly army base. [162916]

Paul Goggins: The Government's overriding priority is to make sure that we have a new, high-quality and integrated public services training college. Desertcreat has been chosen as the preferred site after very careful consideration and there is no intention to reopen consideration of the site.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire Services: Manpower

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters employed by fire authorities in England reside in Wales. [162500]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Fire Services: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government have taken to improve fire services in the West Midlands. [162777]

Mr. Dhanda: Fire and rescue authorities are responsible for their own improvement. The Government set out performance expectations in the Fire and Rescue National Framework. The Audit Commission regularly assesses the performance of all fire and rescue authorities, and identifies areas of strengths and areas for improvement which fire and rescue authorities are expected to address. The Government fund the Audit Commission for conducting this work. In 2005, the Audit Commission assessed West Midlands fire and rescue authority as "good" in the comprehensive performance assessment for the fire and rescue service. Since then, the West Midlands has been judged as "improving well" by the Audit Commission in their 2006-07 performance assessment work and as "performing well" in their use of resources and delivery of value for money and in their front-line service delivery.

In addition to their performance assessment work, the Audit Commission has a local "relationship manager" for each fire and rescue authority who can provide ongoing advice to authorities on improvement issues. Fire and rescue authorities also have access to the joint Department for Communities and Local Government and Local Government Association capacity building programme through their Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership.

Floods: Cornwall

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial assistance her Department provided to the town of Boscastle following flooding there. [162021]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Minister for the Environment, my hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, East and Saddlworth (Mr. Woolas), on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 719W.

Local Area Agreements

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will publish guidance on local area agreements. [162538]

John Healey: Guidance on the negotiation of new Local Area Agreements (LAAs) was published on the Department for Communities and Local Government website in September:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/negotiatingnewlaas

This was the first part of operational guidance. The second part, which will deal with the technical issues surrounding implementation of the new framework for LAAs, will be published shortly.

The Government will also shortly be publishing draft statutory guidance. 'Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities', to accompany sections of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, including Local Area Agreement clauses (clauses 103-118 of the Act). This guidance will set out what the different stages of the new statutory LAA process will look like, together with what will be expected from the upper-tier local authorities responsible for preparing an LAA and their partners. This guidance will be finalised in the new year following consultation.

Local Authorities: Standards

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the minimum number of national indicators is that local authorities will be able to select to set targets for their performance. [162166]

John Healey: The Local Area Agreement (LAA) will consist of local improvement targets which have been designated by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and non-designated local improvement targets which the local authority and its partners may decide to include in the agreement if they consider it necessary. All designated targets will be drawn from the national indicator set and based on the priorities agreed for the local area. The minimum number of designated targets in each agreement has not been specified, but will be subject to negotiation. However, there will be a maximum of 35 in each LAA.

Local Government: Manpower

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many employees of local government in England reside in Wales. [162498]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally, and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Quarrying: Hampshire

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to issue Hampshire County Council with revised tonnages for sand and gravel extraction for the purposes of formulating the Hampshire Regional Plan; and if she will make a statement. [163152]

Mr. Dhanda: The South East England Regional Assembly, as the relevant regional planning body, is currently preparing a revised sub-regional apportionment of primary land-won aggregates as a partial review of the draft South East Plan. The Regional Assembly's present timetable envisages that this policy review would be subject to a pre-submission public consultation between May and July 2008, envisages and a final submission of the recommended policy to the Secretary of State in December 2008. There would then be a further public consultation followed by an examination in public in 2009. The date on which the approved revised sub-regional apportionment will be published will depend upon how long this process takes, but we would expect to do so in the second half of 2009.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued to schools Forums on the proportion of a local authority's Bellwin threshold costs which they ought to meet from the dedicated schools grant. [162612]

John Healey: No separate guidance has been issued to Schools Forums.

Thames Gateway Bridge: Finance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate she has made of the cost of the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge. [162072]

Mr. Iain Wright: Transport for London's evidence to the public inquiry into the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge estimated that the total funding requirement for the project would be £640.7 million; and that the annual operational cost of the scheme would be between £4.379 million and £5.250 million.

There will be an opportunity to consider any revised evidence that is presented on the cost of the proposed Bridge at the reopened public inquiry, the earliest anticipated date for which is in spring 2009.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the costs of setting up the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission as a non-departmental public body. [162495]

Mr. Plaskitt: Officials are currently developing plans to establish the commission. As these plans are still under development, cost estimates are subject to change and it is therefore not possible to provide the requested information at this time. We expect to have robust cost estimates by the time the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill receives Royal Assent.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants stopped claiming benefit in each month since 1992. [162783]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following tables.

Number leaving unemployment benefits and jobseeker's allowance in Great Britain: January 1992 to September 2007

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
January	190,642	253,196	270,908	275,216	207,808	217,855	161,795	211,763
February	376,643	328,437	336,358	318,069	283,170	394,236	336,577	253,951
March	301,720	328,229	330,673	311,181	370,714	307,706	262,935	259,047
April	283,938	303,811	391,365	362,335	266,274	285,320	242,472	245,428
May	364,652	404,240	331,626	295,051	299,334	280,629	288,936	311,468
June	301,136	309,946	310,346	283,163	334,859	344,672	231,813	240,924
July	291,184	310,041	387,135	344,357	266,357	260,122	222,398	242,571
August	362,932	387,570	312,984	286,948	259,630	320,882	290,062	307,593
September	326,164	348,793	344,374	410,335	381,390	305,224	272,294	262,408
October	396,791	515,928	497,625	361,103	362,229	320,724	284,084	342,963
November	384,325	326,687	320,798	293,069	385,049	337,751	298,472	242,886
December	275,642	271,198	272,759	289,752	225,240	225,981	216,932	219,838

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	184,043	152,793	139,510	130,575	126,576	161,940	160,959	150,193
February	253,222	236,409	274,592	269,156	258,678	191,272	183,427	204,966
March	250,926	235,242	227,003	221,923	212,931	189,645	196,920	210,963
April	310,809	285,730	221,965	224,325	201,804	229,208	228,094	246,102
May	230,139	204,914	220,020	190,190	241,144	183,946	186,049	202,381

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
June	226,338	263,532	254,474	257,688	201,444	185,474	191,088	252,557
July	285,453	207,133	209,270	207,402	188,033	228,097	233,612	199,562
August	227,673	202,075	211,895	251 ,949	224,595	179,492	195,561	192,324
September	308,302	278,149	281,752	225,898	197,451	184,676	253,183	263,806
October	249,588	232,108	235,403	225,572	252,423	243,572	214,780	—
November	222,370	204,896	259,970	252,007	185,489	184,248	206,531	—
December	243,096	228,869	185,162	179,137	170,572	164,094	218,099	—

Notes:
1. Figures are unrounded.
2. Jobseeker's allowance was introduced in October 1996 and replaced unemployment benefit.

Source:
Figures are produced from 100 per cent. monthly flows data available on the NOMIS website—the preferred data source—and exclude a small number of clerically held cases.

New Deal Schemes: Contracts

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list those contractors who have won contracts under the New Deal in each of the last three years; and what the value of each contract was. [162394]

Caroline Flint: No new contracts for New Deal services were awarded in 2004 or 2005. Contracts were competitively re-tendered during 2005-06 and new contracts were awarded which started between March and July 2006.

A list of contractors who have won contracts under the New Deal programme in the last three years is provided as follows. Information on the value on each individual contract is not currently available but will be placed in the Library as soon as possible.

New Deal providers awarded contracts in the last three years

A4e (Action for Employment)
Armstrong Learning
Best Ltd.
Birmingham Chamber of Commerce
Biscom Resource Management
Bournemouth and Poole College
BTCV
Career Development Group
Carmarthenshire CC Training and Technology Centre
Claverhouse Training
Community Links
Crosby Training
DASH Training South Wales LLP
DISC
Dudley MBC Future Skills
East Dunbartonshire Council
Glasgow Mentoring Network
Hyfforddiant Ceredigion Training
Inbiz
Inspire to Independence
Instant Muscle
Juniper Training
Kennedy Scott
Lauder College
Management Introductions
MBW Training Services LLP
Moray College
Norfolk and Waveney Enterprise Agency
North Hertfordshire College
Pembrokeshire CC
Pertemps People Development Group
Prospects Services
Quadrant Media and Communications Ltd.
Reed in Partnership PLC
Scottish Cultural Enterprise Ltd.
Scout Enterprises
SCVO
SEETEC
Sencia Ltd.
Shackleton Associates
Shropshire County Training
Skills Training
SOVA
Standguide
Steps to Work Walsall
Support into Work
Support Training Ltd.
Swansea College
TBG Learning
TD Training Ltd.
The Calderdale Colleges Corporation
The Wise Group
Training Network Group Ltd.
Training West Lancs Ltd.
Triage Central Ltd.
Tydfil Training Consortium
Voluntary Action Vale Royal
Warwickshire CC
West Lothian Council
Work Directions UK
Work First
Working Links
WTCS
YMCA Training

Source: Jobcentre Plus Commercial Employment Provision.

Pensions: Females

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether women who draw a retirement pension based on their husband's contributions receive a higher rate of pension if their husband defers

drawing his pension at the age of 65; and if he will make a statement. [163095]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A woman who has reached state pension age can build up extra state pension, or a lump-sum payment, on that part of her state pension, based on her husband's national insurance contributions if he puts off claiming his state pension provided that she is not in receipt of a pension based on her own contributions or certain other social security benefits.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Welsh speakers his Department employs. [162888]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office recruits its UK-based staff from all parts of the UK. Our records do not show whether staff are able to speak Welsh.

Entry Clearances: Tourism

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of applications for a holiday visa to visit the UK were rejected for the most recent period for which figures are available in respect of *(a)* applications made from Thailand and *(b)* all applications. [162049]

Dr. Howells: UKvisas does not use a 'holiday visa' category. Instead, UK visit visa applications are recorded as either 'family visitor' or 'other visitor'.

The following table displays the percentage of 'family visitor' UK visa applications and 'other visitor' UK visa applications refused by our Embassy in Bangkok and all UK missions overseas, for the financial year 2006-07.

All visit visa applications for all UK missions and Bangkok (financial year 2006-07)

	Other Visitor			*Family Visit*		
	Applications received	*Refused*	*Percentage of visas refused*	*Applications received*	*Refused*	*Percentage of visas refused*
Bangkok	26,400	2,930	11	4711	538	11
All Posts	1,409,162	200,502	14	514,607	132,767	26

Note:
This data is unpublished and should be strictly treated as provisional.

European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to implement their responsibilities under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages since signing the Charter. [162785]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK ratified the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages on 27 March 2001 and the charter entered into force for the UK on 1 July 2001. The UK recognises Welsh, Irish, Scottish-Gaelic, Ulster Scots, Manx Gaelic, Cornish and Scots under the charter's definition of a regional or minority language.

The charter's monitoring mechanism requires member states party to the charter to produce, a year after entry into force of the charter for the state and thereafter every three years, a periodical report detailing the policy pursued under Part II of the charter and the measures taken in application of those provisions of Part III of the charter which they have accepted. Since ratification the UK has produced two such periodical reports, the first published on 1 July 2002 and the second on 1 July 2005. The UK's third periodical report is due for publication on 1 July 2008.

The UK's first and second periodical reports can be found on the Council of Europe website at:

http://www.coe.int/t/e/legal_affairs/local_and_regional_democracy/regional_or_minority_languages/2_Monitoring/Monitoring_table.asp#TopOfPage

Guantanamo Bay: Detainees

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US Administration on his request for the release of Shaker Aamer, Jamil El Banna, Omar Deghayes, Binyam Mohamed and Abdennour Sameur from Guantanamo Bay; what assessment he has made of the likelihood of their release; and if he will make a statement. [162100]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary wrote to US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on 7 August to request the release from Guantanamo Bay and return to the UK of five men (Shaker Aamer, Jamil El Banna, Omar Deghayes, Binyam Mohamed and Abdennour Sameur) who, while not British nationals, were legally resident here prior to their detention.

Discussions with the US Administration are ongoing and are confidential between our Governments. While we continue to give the matter due priority, we cannot guarantee that we will be successful.

Guatemala: Children

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Guatemala on the level of violence against street children in that country. [162602]

Meg Munn: Our embassy in Guatemala City, along with EU colleagues, regularly raises human rights

issues with the Government of Guatemala. We continue to urge Guatemala to improve security and health provision for the most vulnerable sectors of society, including street children.

On 15 October the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) hosted a meeting between Guatemalan Vice President Eduardo Stein and Minister of Foreign Affairs Gert Rosenthal and several non-governmental organisations, including Christian Aid, Amnesty International and Casa Alianza. The non-governmental organisations were able to put their concerns directly to the delegation. Child rights and the problems faced by street children including the alarming number of murders were discussed. On 30 October, FCO officials in London held a discussion forum with a number of international child rights non-governmental organisations to identify further opportunities for intervention.

On 25 September our Ambassador in Guatemala City, in partnership with EU ambassadors, met Alvaro Colom (since elected as the next President of Guatemala). They discussed a range of human rights issues. Our ambassador emphasised the importance of improving the protection and rights of children and undertook to develop this dialogue further with the new Administration. The FCO also sponsored a project earlier this year in which 800 Guatemalan police officers were trained in the rights of street children.

Iraq: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's personnel are in each province of Iraq; what role they are playing in each province; and if he will make a statement. [162528]

Dr. Howells: There are 42 Foreign and Commonwealth Office personnel employed in Iraq. Publicising the exact numbers in each province would risk compromising their security. They are supporting the democratically elected Government of Iraq in their efforts to forge a future for the country based on reconciliation, democracy, good governance, economic prosperity and regional security.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many third country nationals of each nationality have been employed by his Department in Iraq in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [162565]

Dr. Howells: No third country nationals have been employed in Iraq by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since 2003.

Iraq: Resettlement

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the assistance package to locally employed staff in Iraq is limited to staff who have attained 12 months or more of continuous service; and if he will make the assistance available to all locally employed staff who are made redundant or have to resign from their jobs because of what the Government judge to be exceptional circumstances. [162298]

Dr. Howells: We are focusing on staff who have given us dedicated service over a period of time. Staff who have not yet worked for us for 12 months but reach that mark in future will become eligible at that time. A 12-month requirement is not unique to the UK; it is also a feature of the US Special Immigrant Visa programme for its Iraqi staff. We have no plans to extend the assistance scheme.

Iraq: Security Guards

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what private contractors have provided protection services for his Department in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each year since 2003. [162525]

Dr. Howells: The information requested by the hon. Member is as follows:

Iraq

2003: Control Risks

2004: ArmorGroup, Control Risks

2005: ArmorGroup, Control Risks

2006: ArmorGroup, Control Risks, GardaWorld (formerly Kroll Security Group)

2007: Control Risks, GardaWorld

ArmorGroup provided static security until 2006, when GardaWorld (formerly Kroll Security Group) took over this contract. Control Risks provides mobile security. Both contracts were subject to a retender in early 2006.

Afghanistan

2003: ArmorGroup

2004: ArmorGroup

2005: ArmorGroup, Edinburgh International

2006: ArmorGroup, Edinburgh International

2007: ArmorGroup

ArmorGroup provides both static and mobile security. This contract was subject to a retender in late 2006. Edinburgh International provided a one-off contract for both static and mobile security services for a project between 2005-06.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) ensures that all contracts are subject to a rigorous selection process so that we obtain best value for money. Any company engaged by the FCO needs to pass through a stringent and transparent procurement process in line with public procurement guidelines and best practice.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Pakistan Government following the decision by President Musharraf to suspend that country's constitution. [162095]

David Miliband: The Government have made numerous representations to the Government of Pakistan at various levels since President Musharraf declared a state of emergency. I myself have spoken to Prime Minister Aziz and to Foreign Minister Kasuri. In both cases, I urged the Government of Pakistan to act quickly to restore the constitution, to ensure free

and fair elections on schedule in January, to release all political prisoners, to lift media restrictions and to honour the commitment that President Musharraf steps down as Chief of Army Staff by 15 November.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 7 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 130-32.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with President Musharraf of Pakistan on the situation in that country; and what steps he plans to take in relation to the replacement of the Chief Justice of Pakistan. [162106]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to President Musharraf on 1 November. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to Prime Minister Aziz and to Foreign Minister Kasuri on 5 November. In all cases, we stressed the vital importance that we place on Pakistan' acting quickly to restore the constitution and the rule of law, which includes a legitimate and independent judiciary.

I refer my hon. Friend to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement to the House on 7 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 130-132.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Pakistan. [162108]

Dr. Howells: We are gravely concerned by the political situation in Pakistan. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend the Minister responsible for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, are working closely with our international partners to urge the Government of Pakistan to ensure free and fair elections by 15 January, to release all political prisoners, to lift media restrictions and to honour the commitment that President Musharraf step down as Chief of Army Staff by 15 November.

I refer my hon. Friend to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement to the House on 7 November, *Official Report*, columns 130-132.

Saudi Arabia: Official Visits

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the public purse was of the recent visit of the Head of State of Saudi Arabia. [162490]

Meg Munn: I will write to the hon. Member about Foreign and Commonwealth Office expenditure on the visit as soon as the accounts have been finalised and will place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

TRANSPORT

Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what tests are carried out on commercial aircraft to measure levels of tricresyl phosphate in cabin air. [163077]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The House of Lords Committee on Science and Technology looked into the organophosphate known as TOCP (tri-ortho cresyl phosphate) in 2000, and concluded that

> "the very low levels of TOCP that would be found even in the highly unlikely worst case of contamination from oil leaking into the air supply lead us to conclude that the concerns about significant risk to the health of airline passengers and crew are not substantiated."

The Committee looked again at this matter during its inquiry into Aviation Health in July of this year and took evidence from aviation stakeholders and Ministers. We await its report.

Typically cabin air is changed every two to three minutes and cockpit air every minute; so tests on cabin air need sampling equipment which can pick up transient contaminants. The Department for Transport has commissioned the testing of equipment which may be capable of capturing substances released during fume events. Subject to the results of this testing, the Department hopes to begin a study later this year or early next year.

That study will be designed to detect any potentially harmful substances rather than focusing on named substances, as recommended by the independent Committee on Toxicity which reported on cabin air on 20 September 2007.

Aviation: Security

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects Regulation (EC) No. 2320/2002 to be fully revised and implemented. [162973]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Agreement having not yet been reached between the Council and the European Parliament on the text of a regulation to replace EC2320/2002, the draft regulation will shortly enter the formal conciliation process. The outcome should be known by the end of the year.

Motor Vehicles: Glass

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to raise awareness amongst drivers of the existence of the visual light transmission standard for vehicle window tint imposed by Regulation 32 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986; and if she will make a statement. [161948]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information was made available in 2003 when we consulted on amendments to the regulations covering tinted windows. A press release was issued at the time and when the new requirements took effect, from 1 January 2004, a leaflet was produced by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. There is information on the direct.gov website about tinted windows including a link to the VOSA leaflet which sets out the position.

There have been no changes to the requirements since January 2004. However, as a new version of the Highway Code was produced we took the opportunity to include a reference to excessively tinted windows in the code.

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers were subject to sanctions by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency enforcement examiners for using vehicles which failed to meet the relevant visual light transmission standard imposed by Regulation 32 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 in each of the last three years. [161951]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency does not collect data specifically on the number of drivers that failed to meet the relevant visual light transmission standard. However, the number of prohibitions issued for glass/glazing defects are as follows:

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Private car	4,336	5,206	3,839
Taxi	85	85	38
Non-testable LGV	0	1	1
HGV plant	0	1	0
LGV	179	252	219
Class 5	3	10	2
LGV plant	1	1	1
Motor caravan	0	2	1
Ambulance	3	2	1
Total	4,607	5,560	4,102

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to include the Visual Light Transmission standard in the MOT test. [163055]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has no plans to do so.

Railway Stations: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many additional trains under the new timetable will be stopping at central Milton Keynes station once the work at the station is complete. [162917]

Mr. Tom Harris: In the draft December 2008 timetable, the number of long-distance trains calling at Milton Keynes every hour is set to increase from two to three providing passengers with direct trains to destinations such as London, Manchester and Birmingham.

The level of services to local stations and other destinations served by the London Midland franchise (which took over from Silverlink on 11 November 2007) remains broadly as it was previously.

Railway Stations: York

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps she is taking to increase *(a)* car parking capacity and *(b)* platform availability at York railway station; and if she will make a statement; [162380]

(2) when she last considered the adequacy of *(a)* car parking and *(b)* platform capacity at York railway station; and if she will make a statement. [162381]

Mr. Tom Harris: These are operational matters for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The right hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his questions.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Railways: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department made of railway passenger numbers in London in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [162550]

Mr. Tom Harris: Statistics on passenger rail journeys are published by the Office of Rail Regulation in National Rail Trends. The Yearbook editions contain regional passenger journeys in and between regions. These are available in the House Library or from the ORR website:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk.

Statistics on the number of passengers using rail travel are based on ticket sales, rather than actual passenger numbers. The data is obtained from the ticketing database LENNON. The regional passenger figures are sourced from the Historic Rail Database, an annual compendium of LENNON.

Railways: Skipton

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to re-open the railway line between Skipton and Colne; and if she will make a statement. [162601]

Mr. Tom Harris: There are no plans to re-open the railway line between Skipton and Colne.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many car accidents there were in Huddersfield in each of the last five years; and how many of those accidents resulted in death. [162549]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number of reporting personal injury road accidents involving cars in the Huddersfield parliamentary constituency: 2002-06

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Accidents	421	415	375	333	324
Of which:					
Fatal accidents	5	1	4	3	3

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the relationship between the number of speeding convictions and the number of road traffic accidents in each of the last three years. [162902]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of speeding convictions and road traffic accidents in the last three years for which figures are available is shown in the following table.

	Number of convictions	Number of accidents
2003	2,066,000	214,030
2004	2,104,000	207,410
2005	2,118,900	198,735

No assessment has been made of the relationship between the two.

However, extensive research published by Professor Stephen Stradling, Napier university, Edinburgh in May 2006 on behalf of the Midlands Partnership Group, found that drivers who have been detected speeding by cameras are almost twice as likely to have had a collision as those who have not, regardless of age or mileage. Three quarters of drivers reporting four or more points on their licence also reported collision involvement, compared with 42 per cent. of drivers with a clean licence.

Furthermore, the four-year independent evaluation report of the National Safety Camera Programme, published in December 2005 and covering the period 2000 to 2004, confirms that there is an association between changes in speed and casualties. This found that there had been a reduction of 6 per cent. in average speeds, a 42 per cent. reduction in killed and serious injuries and a 22 per cent. reduction in personal injury collisions at camera sites.

Roads: Finance

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much capital has been allocated by local authorities to new road projects in Huddersfield since 1997. [162547]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Kirklees Metropolitan borough council is responsible for local transport in Huddersfield. Since 1997, Kirklees has not submitted any requests for funding to this Department for new local major road schemes. However, in September 2007, Ministers agreed to provide £15 million for a scheme to repair nine bridges and 3.5 km of retaining walls on the highway maintained by Kirklees metropolitan borough council.

The following table shows the funding through the Local Transport Plan (LTP) settlement that has been allocated to Kirklees metropolitan borough council since 1997. It is for Kirklees metropolitan borough council to determine how its LTP allocation is spent, in line with the LTP for West Yorkshire and local priorities.

	Capital highway maintenance	Integrated block	Total	Major schemes
1998-99	1.374	1.418	2.792	0
1999-2000	3.752	1.468	5.220	0
2000-01	6.227	6.227	0	
2001-02	6.163	4.350	10.513	0
2002-03	6.405	3.746	10.151	0
2003-04	6.646	3.529	10.175	0
2004-05	8.398	3.554	11.952	0
2005-06	8.343	3.465	11.808	0
2006-07	5.851	3.837	9.688	2.098
2007-08	8.319	3.271	11.590	3.122

Note:
The major scheme total for 2006-07 includes expenditure incurred by the authority prior to the approval of their scheme which is to be reimbursed to the authority. The 2007-08 figure is the current forecast expenditure.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on highway maintenance and improvement in each year since 1997-98. [162184]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Expenditure data on highways in England are provided in table 8.2 of the National Road Maintenance Condition Survey (NRMCS) report for 2006, published in May 2007 and available in the Library of the House. The figures distinguish between structural and routine maintenance rather than between maintenance and improvement.

Speed Cameras: Huddersfield

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras there are in the Huddersfield constituency. [162546]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held by the Department. Since 1 April 2007 the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local partnerships. The number of cameras in place in Huddersfield will therefore be a matter for the West Yorkshire Road safety partnership.

Taxis: Licensing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress she has made on the publication of draft guidance for local licensing authorities on the impact of the repeal of private hire vehicle contract exemption. [162610]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are nearing completion of consideration of the views expressed by stakeholders on the draft guidance. We expect to issue the final version of the guidance later this month.

Waterloo Station

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the increased platform capacity will be for Waterloo station when Eurostar services move to St Pancras International. [162173]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department is working closely with Network Rail and Stagecoach South West Trains (the train operating company) to finalise the design and costs associated with the use of one extra platform—platform 20—at Waterloo International by some domestic passenger services from December 2008.

Options for the medium to long-term use of all of the platforms at Waterloo are being assessed by the Department and Network Rail as part of a wider strategy for the upgrade of the station.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role ISAF forces have in securing the Afghanistan-Iran border; and if he will make a statement. [162527]

Des Browne: The role of ISAF forces is to assist the Government of Afghanistan in the maintenance of security, to facilitate the development of government structures, extend government control and assist reconstruction and humanitarian efforts. The force with primary responsibility for border security is the Afghan Border Police.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contact he has had with his Italian counterpart on the security situation on the Afghanistan-Iran border in Herat province. [162648]

Des Browne: I have regular contact with my Italian counterpart on a number of issues, including the security situation in Afghanistan, where Italy is the lead nation in Herat province.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much monetary compensation was paid to service personnel who had personal belongings stolen en route to Afghanistan as referred to in the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 940W, on Afghanistan peacekeeping operations; to whom the compensation was paid and in respect of which incidents; and what his Department's policy is on paying compensation in such circumstances. [162815]

Des Browne: All personnel are provided with clear guidance prior to deploying on operations that they should ensure property in transit is adequately insured, as liability is not routinely accepted by the Ministry of Defence and the department does not pay compensation as a matter of course. An insurance allowance is payable towards the cost of insurance.

No compensation was paid by the MOD in relation to the loss of personal belongings in the incidents listed in my answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 940W.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what definition of *(a)* military equipment and *(b)* military property was used in the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 940W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations. [162816]

Des Browne: Military equipment and property refer to items owned by the Ministry of Defence and issued for operational use.

Air Force: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RAF personnel are based in *(a)* each state of the USA, *(b)* Ascension Island, *(c)* the Balkans, *(d)* Cyprus, *(e)* Diego Garcia, *(f)* the Falklands and *(g)* Gibraltar. [162522]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The strength of RAF personnel posted outside the UK is available in Table 1.1 of Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 10: UK Regular Forces Stationed Location. TSP 10 is published quarterly. The most recent publication shows figures at 1 April 2007 and can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/publications/tsp10/tsp10tab11.html.

Copies of TSP 10 are available in the Library of the House and are also available at:

www.dasa.mod.uk.

Due to ongoing validation of data from the new Personnel Administration System, all location data is currently provisional and subject to review.

Figures are not available separately for the individual states of the USA or Ascension Island.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British service personnel were stationed in *(a)* Gibraltar, *(b)* the Falklands, *(c)* Belize, *(d)* Brunei and *(e)* Cyprus on 1 October 2007. [162519]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The strength of UK Regular Forces stationed outside the UK is available in Table 1.1 of Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 10: UK Regular Forces Stationed Location. TSP 10 is published quarterly. The most recent publication shows figures at 1 April 2007 and can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/publications/tsp10/tsp10tab11.html.

Copies of TSP 10 are available in the Library of the House and are also available at:

www.dasa.mod.uk.

Due to ongoing validation of data from the new Personnel Administration System, all location data are currently provisional and subject to review.

Armed Forces: Gender

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many women are serving in HM Armed Forces in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [163467]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Deployment figures are currently provided at aggregate levels based on manual returns which do not record the gender of personnel. The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men were recruited to HM Armed Forces in each of the last five years. [163465]

Derek Twigg: The number of female and male recruits joining the armed forces in the last five years can be found in Table 3 of Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 1—Strength, Intake and Outflow of UK Regular Forces. TSP 1 is published monthly. The most recent publication shows figures for the 12 months to 1 September 2007 and can be found at http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tspl/intake.html. Copies of TSP 1 are available in the Library of the House and are also available at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the total number of women who have served, including those currently serving, in HM Armed Forces. [163466]

Derek Twigg: No estimates have been made for the total number of women to have served in HM Armed Forces.

Figures for the number of women currently serving in the armed forces can be found in Table 1 of Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 1—Strength, Intake and Outflow of UK Regular Forces. TSP 1 is published monthly. The most recent publication shows figures for the 12 months to 1 September 2007 and can be found at http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tspl/gender.html. Copies of TSP 1 are available in the Library of the House and are also available at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many units of *(a)* service family accommodation and *(b)* single living accommodation are in each standard for condition grade. [162643]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Service Families Accommodation (SFA) and Single Living Accommodation (SLA) is assessed by Grade for Charge, while some SFA is also assessed by standard for Condition. Grade for Charge is an assessment of the physical condition of the accommodation and other factors such as location and closeness to amenities.

As at 30 June 2007, our worldwide SLA stock of some 165,500 bed spaces was at the following Grade for Charge.

	Number
Grade 1	38,100
Grade 2	19,000
Grade 3	28,200
Grade 4	80,200

At 1 April 2007, the worldwide SFA stock of some 71,193 properties is at the following Grade for Charge:

	Number
Grade 1	12,430
Grade 2	26,447
Grade 3	22,209
Grade 4	8,720
Below Grade 4	387

Of the 71,193, some 55,548 have also been assessed by Standard for Condition (SfC). These are broken down as follows:

	Number
S1fC	30,223
S2fC	19,016
S3fC	3,954
S4fC	2,355

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pairs of cold weather boots will be issued to the next roulement of British service personnel in Afghanistan. [162558]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The next roulement of British forces in Afghanistan is due to take place in March/April 2008. Those forces can expect to face hot summer conditions rather than winter weather and we do not therefore expect them to require cold weather boots.

Army: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual manning figure is of each infantry battalion. [162646]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is shown in the table. Figures are shown as at 1 March 2007, as reliable Army strength statistics to this level of detail are not yet available for 1 April 2007 onwards due to ongoing validation of Army data following the introduction of the new Personnel Administration System.

Infantry Battalion Strength of the Regular Army and Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) by Battalion, as at 1 March 2007

Battalion	Strength[1]	Requirement
Footguards	2,520	2,920
1 Grenadier Guards	530	570
1 Coldstream Guards	550	570
1 Scots Guards	460	640
1 Irish Guards	480	570
1 Welsh Guards	500	570
Scots Div	[2]2,740	2,930
1 Royal Regiment of Scotland	[3]620	570
2 Royal Regiment of Scotland	[3]480	570

Infantry Battalion Strength of the Regular Army and Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) by Battalion, as at 1 March 2007

Battalion	*Strength*[1]	*Requirement*
3 Royal Regiment of Scotland	[1]550	570
4 Royal Regiment of Scotland	[1]580	640
5 Royal Regiment of Scotland	[1]500	590
Queens Div	3,230	3,560
1 Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment	530	640
2 Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment	520	570
1 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	540	640
2 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	500	570
1 Royal Anglian Regiment	610	600
2 Royal Anglian Regiment	530	560
Kings Div	[1]2,790	2,960
1 Yorkshire Regiment	[1]530	570
2 Yorkshire Regiment	[1]450	570
3 Yorkshire Regiment	[1]480	610
1 Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	[1]670	600
2 Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	[1]650	620
Prince of Wales Div	2,330	2,970
1 Royal Welsh Regiment	450	570
2 Royal Welsh Regiment	500	640
1 Staffordshire Regiment	470	640
1 Cheshire	440	570
1 Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment	480	560
RIFLES	[1]3,040	2,940
1 RIFLES	[1]610	570
2 RIFLES	[1]570	570
3 RIFLES	[1]570	570
4 RIFLES	[1]640	600
5 RIFLES	[1]660	640
R Irish	450	590
1 Royal Irish Regiment	450	590
Para	1,490	1,760
Special Forces Support Group (SFSG)	[1]490	580
2 Parachute Regiment	490	590
3 Parachute Regiment	510	590
Total	[1]18,620	20,630

[1] Provisional, as some records are currently being updated to reflect recent and planned divisional and regimental Infantry changes.

Notes:

1. The establishment figures refer to the number of posts within a battalion that may be filled by Infantry personnel (officers and soldiers). Therefore, it excludes posts that are filled by attached personnel of other Arms and Services such as chefs, clerks, etc. Establishments will also vary depending on the particular role of a battalion; for example, Armoured Infantry battalions have larger establishments than light role Infantry battalions.
2. The Special Forces Support Group (SFSG) was established on 3 April 2006 to provide high end infantry in direct support of UKSF on operations. The Unit is located in St. Athan, near Cardiff, in Wales. It is based upon the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment (1 PARA) and draws manpower from all three services, including a Strike Company from the Royal Marines (RM), a Strike Platoon from the Royal Air Force (RAF) Regiment and a detachment of RAF Regiment Forward Air Control and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Specialists. The above contains only the Army element of the SFSG.
3. Strength figures include members of the Regiment serving with the battalion only i.e. 2 Parachute Regiment (2 PARA) posted to 2 PARA, it does not include other Infantry serving with the 2 PARA or PARA personnel posted away from the regiment. Strength figures also exclude attached Arm/services.
4. The Guards Division strengths and establishments exclude the Public Duty Companies e.g. Nijmegan Coys.
5. Figures are for trained Infantry Officers and Soldiers and include Infantry Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel serving with the battalions.
6. Royal Gurkha Regiment figures are for the Regular Army Officers (UK Personnel) only and do not include the Gurkhas.
7. Strength and Establishment figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Totals are rounded separately and therefore may not equal the sum of their parts.

Chad: EC Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many RAF *(a)* C-17 Globemaster, *(b)* C-130K Hercules, *(c)* C-130J Hercules, *(d)* Tristar and *(e)* VC-10 aircraft will be used in the forthcoming EU Mission to Chad and the Central African Republic; [162631]

(2) how many British service personnel of each *(a)* branch of service, *(b)* unit and *(c)* rank will take part in the EU mission to Chad and the Central African Republic; [162649]

(3) what contact he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* Chad, *(b)* the Central African Republic and *(c)* Sudan on the EU mission to Chad and the Central African Republic; and if he will make a statement; [162650]

(4) how many British military personnel are *(a)* based and *(b)* expected to be based in Mont Valerien, France in support of the EU military mission to Chad and the Central African Republic. [162655]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence has not met any of his counterparts in Chad, the Central African Republic (CAR) or Sudan to discuss the forthcoming ESDP mission to Chad/CAR. However, the issues relating to force generation and funding for this mission were discussed at the recent EU Defence Ministers informal meeting in Portugal which he attended. He emphasised that the UK supported the mission as an important contribution to regional stability and a resolution of the Darfur crisis, but made it clear that the role of the UK armed forces would be very limited given the extent of our commitments elsewhere.

There are no plans for RAF aircraft to be used in the mission, and the British personnel to be involved will be four staff officers provided under the standing EU headquarters augmentation procedures. Under these arrangements, each EU member state undertakes to provide specified numbers of personnel to augment the nominated operational headquarters and force headquarters for an EU mission once these have been activated.

For the Chad/CAR mission, the UK will contribute a Commander (Royal Navy) and a Lieutenant Commander (Royal Navy) who have already deployed to the French operation HQ at Mont Valerien in Paris, and a Commander (Royal Navy) and a Squadron Leader (Royal Air Force) who will deploy with the French force headquarters to Chad/CAR. The parent unit for all four staff officers is the permanent joint headquarters based at Northwood.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which EU member states are contributing to the EU military mission to Chad and the Central African Republic; and what each is contributing. [162656]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All discussions on force contributions for the EU military mission to Chad and the Central African Republic up to this point have been indicative. The formal force generation conferences will take place on 9 and 14 November.

I will write to the hon. Member with more detail once these conferences have been completed.

Defence: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost is of Package 1 of the Defence Training Review Rationalisation Programme. [162659]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The through-life cost for Package 1 of the Defence Training Review Rationalisation Programme is anticipated to be £11 billion. This figure takes account of inflation over 30 years including its effect on manpower costs, construction and maintenance charges.

Departmental Staff

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Welsh speakers his Department employs. [162889]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence employs 171 people who have declared themselves as Welsh speakers. The declaration is voluntary, so there may be members of staff who do speak Welsh but have not declared themselves as Welsh speakers.

Servicemen and Ex-servicemen: Suicide

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* active and *(b)* discharged military personnel have committed suicide following return from operational deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. [163076]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence has centrally compiled and verified records of coroner-confirmed suicides or open verdict deaths among UK regular Service personnel up to 31 December 2006.

There have been 17 confirmed suicide or open verdict deaths among UK regular armed forces personnel following deployments to Operation TELIC and Operation HERRICK. Fifteen of those verdicts were Service personnel who had deployed to Operation TELIC, one had been deployed to Operation HERRICK and one had deployed to both operations.

The figures provided do not include any violent or unnatural deaths that have not yet been fully investigated by the coroner.

Information on suicides and open verdict deaths that may have occurred to Service personnel after discharge from the Services is not currently available.

Hydrographic Office

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many private sector stakeholders the team carrying out the review into the UK Hydrographic Office's structure and ownership have met during the course of their work. [161928]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The study team and its consultants have met with a range of stakeholders, including two trade associations representing private sector companies, and 14 other private sector industry participants. These include Original Equipment Manufacturers of ECDIS (Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems), distributors of navigational

products, shipping fleet operators, UKHO survey data re-users and finance specialists.

The review was also informed by a range of other information derived from the private sector. These include the UKHO's own quarterly surveys of 250 end users of the UKHO's products, papers from international conferences and fora, and published market analyses.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many humanitarian airdrops have been conducted by the Royal Air Force in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each year since 2001. [162645]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: UK forces routinely use air-drops in order to resupply deployed troops in both Iraq and Afghanistan. But centrally-held records show that the Royal Air Force has not carried out any airdrops specifically for humanitarian purposes in the period from 2001 to date in either Iraq or Afghanistan.

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency: Complaints

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints have been made to the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency and its predecessors on veterans' matters since 2001. [162512]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Veterans Agency and the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency merged on 1 April 2007.

From September 2001, when records were first kept, to date, the Veterans Agency and the Veterans Agency element of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency have received a total of 2,114 complaints on veterans' matters.

The information requested, on veterans' matters complaints, for the former Armed Forces Personnel and Administration Agency and those elements (Armed Forces Pension Scheme and medals administration) that transferred into the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Slovenia: EC Presidency

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contacts he has had with his Slovenian counterpart on Slovenia's EU presidency in the first half of 2008; and if he will make a statement. [162630]

Des Browne: I meet the Slovenian Defence Minister regularly when attending EU and NATO ministerial meetings. I discussed the forthcoming Slovenian EU presidency with him in the margins of a NATO meeting last year.

Submarines: Decommissioning

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* age and *(b)* proposed date of decommissioning is of each of the Trafalgar Class submarines. [162372]

Des Browne: The current age and the planned out of service dates, which are kept under regular review, for each of the Trafalgar Class submarines are as follows:

Vessel	*Age*	*Out of service date*
HMS Trafalgar	24	2009
HMS Turbulent	23	2011
HMS Tireless	22	2013
HMS Torbay	20	2015
HMS Trenchant	18	2017
HMS Talent	17	2019
HMS Triumph	16	2022

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether access to the skills account for advanced apprentices announced in his speech of 31 October 2007 will be means-tested. [162776]

Mr. Lammy: Skills Accounts will not be means tested. Skills Accounts aim to give individuals, in or out of work, more ownership, purchasing power and choice over their training, helping them progress in their careers and in sustainable employment. Skills Account holders will have better information and access to key services, such as the new universal careers service. They will also be able to see the costs and value of training and find out about financial support, entitlements and learning options available to them, including Apprenticeships. They will be trialled nationally in England in 2009-10.

Apprentices: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeship schemes are operating in the Peterborough city council area; and if he will make a statement. [163175]

Mr. Lammy: Figures for those participating in apprenticeships can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). There were 780 learners on apprenticeships and 390 on advanced apprenticeships in Peterborough local authority (based on home post code of the learner) in 2005/06.

Apprenticeships are highly valued by this Government, which supports their continuing improvement and expansion. Apprenticeships give young people a chance to earn while they learn, get excellent vocational training and build a sustainable career. Employers are helped to build a professional skilled workforce, equipped with the knowledge and experience that their business needs to compete and stay ahead in today's global economy.

Source:

Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Work Based Learning (WBL) Individualised Learner Record (ILR)

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10

Intellectual Property: India

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* timetable and *(b)* content is of the bilateral action plan agreed with the Indian intellectual property rights authorities, as referred to in the answer of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1163W, on intellectual property: India. [162997]

Ian Pearson: The information is as follows:

(a) It is still not clear what the timetable for implementing the bilateral action plan will be. However, there will be further talks with India in this matter next month, as part of the Economic Trade Committee discussion. We are keen that we move forward on this as soon as we can.

(b) The action will focus on the following areas:

Training and management of Patent and Trademark officials

Developing the Patent and Trademark Attorney profession

Sharing experiences and best practice on the investigation of IP infringements and their resolution

Strengthening of training facilities

Increasing the awareness and understanding of IP by industry.

Religion: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funds were paid to which *(a)* Jewish, *(b)* Muslim and *(c)* Christian seminaries by his Department and its predecessors in each year since 2001. [162398]

Mr. Lammy: The Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills has not paid any funds to Jewish, Muslim or Christian seminaries in any year from 2001.

Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of the additional support budget of the Train to Gain programme was spent in each English region by the Learning and Skills Council in 2006-07. [162121]

Mr. Lammy: Additional learner support is financial support that is available to help individuals to access or complete their education in situations where a lack of money may otherwise restrict them. The funding is for learners from families on benefits or low incomes, or suffering from exceptional financial hardship. Additional learner support can help cover childcare costs, accommodation, or general costs such as textbooks and equipment.

Most learning provision on Train to Gain is delivered in the workplace so it is very unusual for learners participating in Train to Gain to need to apply for support. The Additional Learner Support spent by the Learning and Skills Council in 2006-07 on learners on Train to Gain funded programme of learning was only £1,729 (£150 in the North East and £1,579 in the North West).

HEALTH

Cancer: Waiting Lists

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the £75 million earmarked for reducing cancer waiting times and providing a named midwife for all pregnant women over the period of the Comprehensive Spending Review, as set out in the Department of Health press release dated 9 October 2007, will be spent on each of these two priorities; how much is proposed to be spent over each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review; and if he will make a statement. [162417]

Mr. Bradshaw: The £75 million announced in the press release relates only to the cost of reducing cancer waiting times over the spending review period. The figure is the Department's estimate of the cost to the national health service (NHS) of delivering improvements. The great majority of NHS funding is allocated to primary care trusts, who will decide spending in each area of health care in the light of both national and local priorities. The exact spend on reducing cancer waiting times in each year of the spending review period will therefore be determined locally by the NHS, and is not prescribed by the Department.

Departmental Contracts

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any applicant company for a contract with the NHS or his Department has been excluded because of convictions for a criminal offence or cases of gross professional misconduct since 2004. [162385]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on whether applicant companies are excluded from contacts with the NHS or the Department because they have been convicted of a criminal offence or gross professional misconduct in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

In purchasing goods and services for the national health service, the Department is subject to all European Union (EU) public procurement regulations. The rules compel the Department to advertise and award any proposed contract in accordance with the legal procedure set out in the regulations. This ensures that the process is fair, transparent and non-discriminatory.

As part of central procurement exercises run by the Department or NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency on behalf of the NHS, bidders are requested to confirm at an early stage whether there are any factors which would exclude them under the EU criteria (grave misconduct, criminal offences etc.). Under EU procurement guidelines, bodies are permitted to exclude a company that has been convicted of a criminal offence or grave professional misconduct in relation to the conduct of their business.

Health Professions: Regulation

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with the Healthcare Commission on the provisions to regulate health professionals to be contained in the forthcoming Health and Social Care Bill; and if he will make a statement. [163520]

Mr. Bradshaw: The provisions within the forthcoming Health and Social Care Bill concerning the regulation of health professions and health and social care workforce do not effect the Healthcare Commission directly. The Department has, in its development of proposals for the wider implementation of the White Paper, "Trust, Assurance and Safety—The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century", consulted a wide variety of stakeholders, including the Healthcare Commission, and continues to do so.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will negotiate a reciprocal agreement with the French government to enable retired British citizens living in France to access French healthcare without private medical insurance; [163052]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of British citizens living in France who will be affected by the French Government's decision to change healthcare law; [163053]

(3) what advice he has received on the legality under EU law of the French government's decision to change its rules regarding access to healthcare for British Citizens. [163054]

Dawn Primarolo: The position of British citizens living in France who are covered by European Union reciprocal agreements has not changed and they will still receive state provided healthcare in France. This means that retired people in receipt of United Kingdom state pension are still able to access state healthcare in France.

The changes to the French system affect early retirees from other member states including the UK who are not covered by EU regulations and have not lived in France long enough to meet their residency requirements. It is not known how many people are affected.

Health and social security systems differ in each member state. Who and what is covered is a matter for each individual state in this instance France. There are no plans to negotiate an agreement with France that goes beyond existing ones. It is critical that people consider how they will access healthcare when they move abroad.

NHS: Expenditure

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* NHS hospital and community health services, *(b)* NHS maternity services and *(c)* other NHS costs in 2006-07. [162303]

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* the NHS, *(b)* NHS hospital and community health services and *(c)* NHS maternity services in the 2006-07 financial year as referred to in the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 266W, on NHS: finance. [162995]

Mr. Bradshaw: Expenditure for 2006-07 (England) is shown in the following table:

	Expenditure (£ million)
National health service	80,884
NHS hospital and community health services (HCHS)	46,853
NHS maternity services	1,617

Notes:
1. NHS expenditure is the total NHS net revenue expenditure.
2. HCHS maternity services are derived from data in the summarised accounts which relates to community or secondary health care and this includes the purchase of health care from non-NHS providers.
3. The maternity services expenditure shown is included within the HCHS figure, which is already included under the total net NHS revenue expenditure.

Orphan Drugs: EC Law

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how Regulation (EC) 141/2000 on orphan medicinal products is being implemented; and if he will make a statement. [163289]

Dawn Primarolo: Regulation (EC) number 141/2000 of the European Parliament on orphan medicinal products has been fully implemented. The Orphan Drug Register is managed by the European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMEA). Information regarding Orphan Drugs is available on the website of the EMEA

www.emea.eu.int

The findings from research into the effectiveness of regulations on the development and licensing of orphan medicines are presented in the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP) Report to the European Commission in Relation to Article 10 of Regulation 141/2000 in Orphan Medicinal Products. This report is published on the website of the EMEA at:

www.emea.eu.int/htms/human/comp/compgen.htm

It includes an assessment of access to these medicines for patients in the different member states, including the United Kingdom.

A copy of the "COMP Report to the Commission in Relation to Article 10 of Regulation 141/2000 in Orphan Medicinal Products" has been placed in the Library.

West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust: Reform

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will direct the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust to give weight to the petition organised by the Worcester News on service restructuring commensurate with the 2,092 signatures gathered; and if he will make a statement. [163021]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a matter for the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust as the consultation on proposed charges to Emergency Operations Centres was locally led. Therefore, the West Midlands Ambulance Service would be in the best position to provide more details about the arrangements in place in this area.

The Department of Health is clear that arrangements for where ambulance service control rooms are situated, and how calls into the control rooms are received, are a matter for the individual ambulance services themselves.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Buildings: Carbon Emissions

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the proposal in the Energy White Paper to increase the proportion of heat generated through less carbon-intensive technologies; and how this proposal will be implemented via the building regulations. [162665]

Malcolm Wicks: The Energy White Paper is the result of detailed collaboration between all Departments of State, including the Department for Communities and Local Government. In it we said that we will conduct further work into the policy options available to reduce the carbon impact of heat and its use. This work is being led by the Office for Climate Change and officials from my Department and CLG are engaged in the work.

The Government have signalled the intention to further amend the Building Regulations energy efficiency requirements in 2010, 2013 and 2016. The aim will be to set higher standards that are practical and achieve the Government's targets while maintaining sufficient design flexibility enabling cost-effective compliance without unacceptable technical risks. This approach will take into account lower carbon heating.

In the normal way there will be public consultations before any changes are actually made.

Departmental Publicity

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost has been of re-branding his Department following the change in name from the Department of Trade and Industry. [162105]

Mr. Thomas: Costs to date associated with the use of the name of the new Department are approximately £192,000. These include the costs of design, items such as new signage and changes to the website and other electronic media. As promised in my answer to a question from the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Susan Kramer) on 17 July, *Official Report*, column 278W, we plan to provide a full account of extra expenditure relating to the establishment to the library of both Houses at the time of the Winter Supplementary Estimates in November.

Exports: Sierra Leone

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what value of British goods were exported to Sierra Leone in *(a)* 2002 and *(b)* each subsequent year. [162369]

Mr. Thomas: HMRC overseas trade statistics give the following figures:

	£ million
	UK exports of goods to Sierra Leone
2002	32.0
2003	32.4
2004	24.0
2005	26.1
2006	18.6

Fireworks: Standards

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what restrictions there are on firework manufacturers and importers to limit the height at which fireworks can fly to 1,500 feet. [162768]

Mr. Thomas: All consumer fireworks sold in UK must comply with British Standard 7114. The technical specifications in this standard limit the height at which the firework bursts. Consumer fireworks typically burst in the air at between 250-300 feet considerably less than the maximum indicated by the Civil Aviation Authority in their guidance.

Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988; and whether he plans to increase public awareness of the statutory requirement that furniture and furnishings must meet the standards of the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988. [162043]

Mr. Thomas: The Department of Trade and Industry commissioned the University of Surrey to research the effectiveness of the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988. The resulting report—'Effectiveness of the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988'—was published in June 2000 and copies were placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The report's findings were very positive: at a conservative estimate, the Regulations had saved at least 710 lives (1,860 when additional factors are taken into consideration) and prevented at least 5,770 injuries from 1988 to 1997. Recent figures from the Department for Communities and Local Government show that the downward trend in deaths and injuries has continued. I am currently considering whether further public awareness of the requirements of the Regulations is necessary at this stage.

Imports: Sierra Leone

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what value of goods was imported from Sierra Leone into the UK in each year since 2002. [162370]

Mr. Thomas: HMRC overseas trade statistics give the following figures:

	£ million UK imports of goods from Sierra Leone
2002	2.7
2003	4.2
2004	2.1
2005	1.2
2006	4.4

Manufacturing Industries

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of how many employees in the manufacturing industry working in England reside in Wales. [162497]

Mr. Timms: No such assessment has been made. The Office for National Statistics does not hold these figures.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to reply to the letter of 16 July 2007 from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean to the right hon. Member for Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath on the review of nuclear energy use. [162804]

Malcolm Wicks: I responded to the hon. Member in October. A copy of my reply has been faxed to the hon. Member's parliamentary office.

Mining: Compensation

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many miners' compensation claims he expects to be resolved with the implementation of the UK coal dust calculator in *(a)* England, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* Hemsworth constituency. [162258]

Malcolm Wicks: The number of former miners' coal health claims that are expected to be resolved with the implementation of the UK coal dust calculator for England, West Yorkshire and Hemsworth constituency as at 4 November 2007 is shown in the following table:

Region	Outstanding claims
England	2,863
West Yorkshire	545
Hemsworth	179

The outstanding claims are those that have not yet been settled by payment, denial, withdrawal or strike out.

West Yorkshire is defined using the following constituencies:

Batley And Spen Boro, Bradford North Boro, Bradford South Boro, Bradford West Boro, Calder Valley, Colne Valley, Dewsbury, Elmet, Halifax Boro, Hemsworth, Huddersfield Boro, Keighley, Leeds Central Boro, Leeds East Boro, Leeds North East Boro, Leeds North West Boro, Leeds West Boro, Morley And Rothwell Boro, Normanton, Pontefract And Castleford, Pudsey Boro, Shipley & Wakefield.

We are unable to breakdown UDM claims by region, but these are captured within the total figure for England. The UDM claims amount to 615 in total.

North West Development Agency: Finance

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the budget is for the North West Development Agency in financial years *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11. [163001]

Mr. Timms: The North West Development Agency's allocated budget for 2007-08, together with their indicative budgets for 2008-09 to 2010-11, are given in the table.

	£000
(a) 2007-08	395,003
(b) 2008-09	391,611
(c) 2009-10	386,442
(d) 2010-11	377,371

Packaging

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) for what reasons the provisions permitting companies to take private action through the courts against competitors who make use of misleading packaging were not included in the legislation transposing the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive into UK law; [162411]

(2) what assessment he has made of the ability of UK manufacturers to prevent competitors from misrepresenting their products through the use of misleading and copycat packaging under the provisions of the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive. [162412]

Mr. Thomas: In their response to the December 2005 consultation on implementation of the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive (UCPD) the Government said they did not propose to allow businesses to take enforcement action for breaches of this directive. This is because they believed that existing arrangements are adequate for dealing with cases that result in real consumer detriment.

A number of responses to the May 2007 consultation on draft Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations, which will implement the Directive, asked the Government to reconsider their decision not to allow businesses with a legitimate interest to take civil (injunctive) action to enforce the provisions on copycat packaging. We are carefully considering all the responses received before coming to a final decision on how the regulations should best be enforced in the interests of consumers. The Government intend to publish their response to the May 2007 consultation later this month.

Postal Services: Rural Areas

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effects on rural areas of ending postal collections on Sundays. [162102]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. The company introduced Sunday collections a few years ago to enhance their service, but there has been very little take-up from the public. Sunday postings are very low, but add a huge amount of cost to the business. Royal Mail have to have regard to their costs and are therefore looking to stop Sunday collections.

The Government consider the maintenance of a universal postal service throughout the UK to be of the highest importance. That is why the obligation is enshrined in primary legislation in the Postal Services Act 2000 and why Postcomm has the primary statutory duty to ensure the provision of a universal postal service at an affordable uniform tariff. Sunday and Bank Holiday collections are not part of the universal service obligation.

Power Stations: Combined Heat and Power

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consideration the Government have given to the merits of adding combined heat and power to *(a)* Port Talbot, *(b)* Uskmouth and *(c)* New Pembroke power stations; what estimate he has made of the potential annual savings in terms of (i) primary energy input and (ii) carbon emission; and if he will make a statement. [162955]

Malcolm Wicks: Applicants for new power station must demonstrate that they have considered the viability, in terms of possible heat users in the vicinity of their proposal, of the station being described as combined heat and power. My Department issued guidance on what is required on this and this is available at:

www.berr.gov.uk/files35728.pdf

The Department does not have the specific information requested on annual savings for individual purposes. However an analysis has recently been carried out to assess the potential for CHP for high temperature industries, such as large utility plants. This analysis is available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/energy/chp/pdf/potential-report.pdf

Severn Barrage

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his appraisal of the feasibility of a Severn Barrage will include an appraisal of alternative methods of harnessing the tidal power of the River Severn; and if he will make a statement. [163527]

Malcolm Wicks: The detailed remit for the feasibility study is now being scoped. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will make a statement on this point in due course.

Sports: Clubs

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether sports clubs whose members pay for their membership by instalments are required to hold consumer credit licences; and if he will make a statement. [163106]

Mr. Thomas: The Consumer Credit Act 1974 requires that most businesses that offer goods or services on credit hold a consumer credit licence. Golf clubs and other private sports clubs which allow for payment of annual membership fees in more than four instalments may need a consumer credit licence. However, whether or not a licence is required will be dependent on the individual circumstances applicable to the operation of each individual club such as whether or not the club is classified as 'carrying on a business', if so whether this would be classified as 'occasional business' and whether the particular club's agreements might be subject to any exemptions.

Given that unlicensed trading is a criminal offence, the Office of Fair Trading advice has been for clubs to apply for a consumer credit licence if they are in any doubt.

Agreements between clubs and their members may involve substantial loans and as such are as appropriately subject to regulation under the Consumer Credit Act as other types of agreements where credit is provided.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Policy Review

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he expects to begin the next Policy Review programme. [162552]

Edward Miliband: The Government review their policies on an ongoing basis and will continue to address the key strategic challenges facing the country, consulting with the public and stakeholders as we move forward.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Leader of the Opposition: Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Leader of the House whether funds are provided from the public purse for travel by *(a)* rail and *(b)* air by the Leader of the Opposition in his capacity as such. [162491]

Ms Harman: Financial assistance to opposition parties, known as Short Money, is governed by the resolution of the House of Commons of 26 May 1999, in which the purpose of the payments is described as being

> "to assist an opposition party in carrying out its parliamentary business."

The resolution provides specifically for funds to opposition parties for travelling and associated expenses necessarily incurred by party spokesmen in relation to the party's parliamentary business. In addition, assistance is available for costs necessarily incurred in running the office of the Leader of the Opposition.

There are no restrictions or rules on the mode of travel that can be used in carrying out parliamentary business.

Legislative Process

Simon Hughes: To ask the Leader of the House when she will publish a summary of consultation responses to the draft legislative programme. [162787]

Ms Harman: The Government's Draft Legislative Programme—Taking a Wider View will be published shortly. I will ensure the hon. Gentleman receives a copy.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much has been spent by her Office on official hospitality since its establishment. [161940]

Tessa Jowell: Details of any expenditure in 2007-08 will be available when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether any of the £2.7 billion contingency fund announced as part of the Olympic budget in March 2007 is drawn from the National Lottery. [162086]

Tessa Jowell: Contingency funding will only be called upon where it is absolutely necessary, as agreed by the ministerial funders' group. Any draw-down of contingency will include a proportionate contribution of funds from each of the contributors.

The lottery's contribution to the contingency is a matter for the Olympic Lottery Distributor. They have indicated their intention that around 20 per cent. of the £2.747 billion contingency could be met from lottery funds included in the £9.325 billion funding package, announced on 15 March 2007.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the forecast of *(a)* VAT, *(b)* contingency and *(c)* legacy transportation costs of the main Olympic stadium will be, with reference to the answer of 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 48W, on Olympic Games: Greater London. [162275]

Tessa Jowell: The cost of the main Olympic stadium is £496 million inclusive of VAT, allowance for inflation, some site works, and legacy conversion. No further breakdown can be provided at this point as this information is commercially confidential.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics with reference to the answer of 18 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 638-39W, on London Olympics (Ref 129383 and 129384), if she will provide a more detailed breakdown of the planned expenditure on the Olympic Park and infrastructure and regeneration. [162278]

Tessa Jowell: I will do so early in the new year.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Literacy Standards

14. **Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on literacy standards in primary schools. [161968]

Jim Knight: Standards of literacy in our primary schools are at their highest levels ever. 80 per cent. of 11-year-olds are now reaching the target level in English, compared to 63 per cent. in 1997. This means that around 100,000 more pupils a year are reaching the expected standard for their age.

The renewed primary literacy strategy, with a stronger emphasis on phonics, Every Child a Reader and Every Child a Writer to help those pupils who are struggling will help to ensure that we maintain and extend the improvements we have already achieved.

Educational Standards

16. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to raise standards in primary schools. [161970]

Jim Knight: Since 1997, we've doubled funding per pupil in real terms. We have put over 200,000 more adults in classrooms. Results are rising. At key stage 2, attainment in all subjects is at the highest levels and we have narrowed the gap between boys and girls. Early signs are that we have achieved our primary schools floor target a year early. We aim to deliver a world-class education system.

Personalised learning, the national strategies, the new emphasis on progression, every child a reader, every child a writer, every child counts and continued investment will continue to transform standards in primary schools.

Foreign Languages

17. **Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils took at least one *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level in a modern language in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [161971]

Jim Knight: Between 2003 and 2006 the number of A Level entries in French, German and Spanish decreased slightly, from 23,476 to 22,926. The number Increased to 23,306 in 2007.

Between 2003 and 2007 the number of GCSE entries in modern foreign languages decreased from 453,900 to 301,400.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary schools in England teach a modern foreign language. [161953]

Jim Knight: Research carried out in 2006 found that 70 per cent. of primary schools are teaching languages. This is up from 44 per cent. in 2003.

Children's Homes: Missing Children

18. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children went missing from children's homes in each of the last three years. [161972]

Beverley Hughes: During 2005, 290 children went missing from their children's home on one occasion or more. The figure for 2006 was the same, and in 2007, it was 300. This figure excludes children receiving short-term respite care. The Government recognise how significant these episodes are for the children involved, and issued statutory guidance to local authorities to specify the arrangements they must make to reduce the risk of children running away, and to deal with it appropriately when it happens.

The 'Care Matters: Time for Change' White Paper reiterated our commitment to:

Share effective practice on managing such incidents via the current round of the Beacon Council Scheme, which includes children in care as a theme;

Ensure through the effective implementation of the integrated children's system that effective contingency arrangements are prompted as part of the care planning process for those children with a history of running away;

Ensure that the revised national minimum standards put the right emphasis on the need to reduce the risk of children going missing and the necessity for all children's homes to follow local police procedures for reporting and managing incidents;

Reflect the issue in updated statutory guidance, the proposed annual stocktake, and inspection arrangements.

Work across Government to ensure that the specific needs of unaccompanied asylum seeking children who go missing from care are reflected. Joint DCSF and Home Office guidance on safeguarding children who may have been trafficked is being finalised and will be issued shortly.

Capital Expenditure: York

19. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average annual capital expenditure was in respect of York schools since 1997-98; and how much was spent in 1996-97. [161973]

Jim Knight: The Department does not maintain local authority records on an expenditure basis, as the timing and amount of expenditure is determined by each local authority. The average annual capital allocation by the Department to York schools for the 11 year period 1997-98 to 2007-08 is £9.83 million. The allocation in 1996-97 was £0.83 million.

Education Leaving Age

20. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the Government's proposals that all young people should remain in education or training until the age of 18. [161974]

Ed Balls: We announced last week our intention to legislate to raise the participation age, so that all young people continue in education or training until 18 from 2015. The legislation builds on the Green Paper published in March and the booklet 'Raising Expectations' published on Monday.

We believe that this will give our young people the best chance to achieve and succeed, leading to improved life chances, and allow our economy to continue to compete internationally.

Basic Needs Allocation

21. **Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he intends to review the formula for the basic needs allocation; and if he will make a statement. [161975]

Jim Knight: I had a discussion on this issue with the hon. Member and with my hon. Friend the Member for Milton Keynes, South-West (Dr. Starkey), on Wednesday 7 November. I explained that it was not practicable to change the basic needs formula , as such a change would have a knock-on effect on allocations to all other authorities. I also said that I would ask my officials, working with Milton Keynes' officials, to review the position of that authority and to report back to me.

Creative Partnerships Programme

22. **Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the impact of the Creative Partnerships Programme on schools. [161976]

Jim Knight: There have been four independent evaluations of the Creative Partnerships programme. These were considered by the Education and Skills Select Committee, of which my hon. Friend was a member, in preparing their report on Creative Partnerships and the Curriculum. We are currently considering options for the future of the programme beyond 2008 and the Committee's recommendations will help us to develop our thinking. A formal response to the report will be made in due course.

Special Educational Needs

23. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he will respond to the Education and Skills Committee Report on Special Educational Needs: Assessment and Funding. [161977]

Kevin Brennan: We will be responding to the Committee's report in due course.

Parents

Mrs. Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to improve the provision of advice, information and support to parents with particular reference to material in languages other than English. [161967]

Kevin Brennan: Access to information empowers parents. Local authorities already provide information on child care to parents and the Childcare Act 2006 extends the requirement to a wider range of information from April 2008. Authorities decide how

and in what languages to provide information but we expect them to meet the needs of local parents. We are investing £34 million in our new Parent Know How information service which will begin operating from April 2008.

Foetal Alcohol Syndrome

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to improve education provision for children born with foetal alcohol spectrum disorders. [161969]

Kevin Brennan: Many children born with foetal alcohol spectrum disorders have special educational needs. Schools and local authorities must have regard to the SEN Code of Practice when carrying out statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for special educational needs—including children whose needs arise from foetal alcohol spectrum disorders. The code highlights the importance of education, social care and health services working together to meet the needs of all children with special educational needs.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the accounting arrangements are for the Building Schools for the Future budgets allocated to local authorities. [162494]

Jim Knight: Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is funded through a combination of capital grant, the private finance initiative, and also in the case of wave 1 to 3 projects, supported borrowing allocations. Allocations are currently made by my Department on the advice of Partnerships for Schools, our delivery agent for the BSF programme. All allocations are made to the lead local authority for each project, who are signatories to the contracts for the BSF projects, and who have responsibility for ensuring the funds are properly invested. All schools capital allocations made through capital grant and supported borrowing are included in the Department's accounts.

Children: Day Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect of the transformation fund on levels of qualifications held by the childcare and early years workforce. [163355]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities have estimated that during the period 2006-07 to 2007-08, over 4,300 settings would be supported through the Transformation Fund to take up the Quality Premium or Recruitment Incentive, and over 42,000 employees would be supported through the Fund to gain a full Level 3, 4 or 5 qualification. Levels of qualification in the work force are monitored through the annual Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey, which will next report in autumn 2008. In 2006, the survey showed that 73 per cent. of staff in full day care settings held a Level 3 qualification and that 3 per cent. of staff in full day care settings held a graduate level qualification.

Languages: Curriculum

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken since 1997 to encourage more students to learn foreign languages at school. [162779]

Jim Knight: In 2002 the Government's National Languages Strategy was published, with the overarching objective of improving the teaching and learning of languages across all phases of education, including delivering an entitlement that by 2010 all Key Stage 2 pupils (ages 7-11) will be able to learn a language at least in part in class time. Research commissioned by the Department shows that 70 per cent. of primary schools are already teaching foreign languages in class time.

In light of the continued decline in take-up of languages at GCSE following the decision in 2004 to lift the requirement on young people to be taught a language at Key Stage 4 (ages 14-16), we commissioned the Languages Review, chaired by Lord Dearing. This reported in March 2007 and made a number of recommendations that we are now taking forward. These include: making languages a compulsory part of the primary curriculum when it is next reviewed, backed by a teacher training programme in a primary languages specialism, increased funding for local authorities to support primary languages, and access to sources of support for classroom teaching; promoting a broader range of languages at Key Stage 3 (ages 11-14) by relaxing the requirement that schools first teach a working language of the European Union so that they can offer any major world or European language; and encouraging take-up of languages at GCSE level by including two new performance indicators in the Achievement and Attainment Tables to measure attainment and participation in languages and providing challenge and support to schools from School Improvement Partners and Ofsted.

Pre-School Education: Teachers

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the likely demand for specialist qualified early years teachers for early years settings in each of the next three years. [162786]

Beverley Hughes: We are currently carrying out a modelling exercise to determine the demand for teachers, including those with experience and knowledge of the early years, for the period from 2008 to 2011. The results of this will be available at the end of 2007.

School Improvement Partners

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been paid to Capita for that firm's work in assessing and selecting school improvement partners since the inception of the programme. [162110]

Jim Knight: To date £4.7 million has been paid to the Department's National Strategies contractor, Capita SCS, for assessing education professionals for accreditation to become School Improvement Partners (SIPs). Of this figure, £4.4 million was paid to the National College of School Leadership (NCSL) who are contracted by Capita SCS to run the SIP accreditation and induction programme. To date, 3,661 SIPs have been accredited across the primary and secondary phases.

Schools: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the impact of the reduction of the basic need allocation for Milton Keynes on the future school building programme for the city. [162848]

Jim Knight: I had a discussion on this issue with the hon. Member and with my hon. Friend the Member for Milton Keynes, South-West (Dr. Starkey) on Wednesday 7 November. I said that I would ask my officials, working with Milton Keynes' officials, to review the position of that authority and to report back to me.

Supply Teachers: Expenditure

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the amount paid by schools in England to teacher supply agencies in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [162111]

Jim Knight: The information requested is contained within the following table:

Expenditure on agency supply teachers[1] by local authority maintained schools[2] in England: 2002-03 to 2006-07[3,4]

	£
	Agency supply teaching staff[1,4] (E26)
2002-03[2]	357,633,000
2003-04	371,163,000
2004-05	382,959,000
2005-06	430,538,000
2006-07[3]	438,740,000

[1] Expenditure on agency supply teaching staff covers the cost paid to an agency for teaching staff that have been brought in to cover teacher absence. Includes cover of any period and for all reasons, including illness, absence for training, and any leave. This does not include expenditure on supply teachers who are employed directly by a school (and hence not employed via an agency).

[2] Figures for 2002-03 exclude any expenditure by local authority maintained nursery schools as that was not collected in 2002-03. Expenditure local authority maintained nursery schools on agency supply teaching staff make up £0.5 million, £1.7 million, £2.2 million and £2.5 million of the respective totals for 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

[3] Figures for 2006-07 is subject to change by the local authority.

[4] Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000.

Notes.

1. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 7 November 2007.

2. Figures are drawn from local authorities Section 52 Outturn Statement (Table A line 28) submitted to the DCSF (formally DfES).

Teaching Aids: Climate Change

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the guidance referred to in the answer of 24 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 425W, on teaching aids: climate change, will be sent to secondary schools; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [162654]

Jim Knight: We hope to send the guidance to schools by the end of November but it is already available online on the Sustainable Schools area of the Teachernet website:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Official Hospitality

Norman Lamb: To ask the Prime Minister who he has officially entertained at Chequers since 28 June. [163154]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 680W.

Departmental Public Appointments

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister whether Sir Alistair Graham indicated his willingness to serve a second term as Chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. [162493]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the evidence given by Sir Alistair Graham to the Public Administration Select Committee on 15 May 2007.

Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Prime Minister if he will provide a list of Government special advisers since 27 June 2007 with pay bands and costs, including support costs, on a comparable basis to the information provided in the written statement of 26 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 86-91WS, on special advisers. [162685]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Ministers: Codes of Practice

Mr. Burns: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the *(a)* content and *(b)* application of the rules in the Ministerial Code of Conduct relating to the requirement for (i) Ministers and (ii) parliamentary private secretaries to notify hon. Members when visiting their constituencies to take part in party political activities. [162129]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my predecessor (right hon. Tony Blair) on 27 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 330W.

Public Relations: Prime Minister

Mr. Harper: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what arrangements are in place for *(a)* giving notice and *(b)* seeking leave by the Director General of the Security Service (DGSS) in relation to the making of speeches on matters within his responsibilities, with particular reference to the DGSS's speech to the Society of Editors on 5 November 2007; [162123]

(2) when he was first informed of the *(a)* delivery date and *(b)* content of the speech made by the Director General of the Security Service on 5 November 2007. [162128]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 13 November 2007

SCOTLAND

Elections

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether the Scotland Office submitted its views on the de-coupling of the Scottish local government elections and the Scottish Parliament elections to the Scottish Executive. [163960]

David Cairns: The decision to decouple the Scottish local government elections from the Scottish Parliament elections is a matter for the Scottish Executive. In his statement to the House on 23 October, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland indicated he would welcome such a decision.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what representations the Scotland Office made to the then Department for Constitutional Affairs on the timetable for the enactment of the Electoral Administration Act 2006. [163961]

David Cairns: The Electoral Administration Bill received Royal Assent on 11 July 2006, almost 10 months before the Scottish elections in May 2007. As a member of the ministerial team taking the Bill through, I was fully aware of the timetable for enactment.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether the legislation sub-group of his Department's 2007 elections steering group was consulted on the proposed ballot paper for the Scottish Parliament elections. [163962]

David Cairns: Neither the 2007 elections steering group nor its legislation sub-group were established by the Scotland Office. The elections steering group was chaired by the Scottish Executive. The steering group's legislation sub-group was chaired by the Scottish Executive when the local government legislation was under discussion and the Scotland Office when the Scottish Parliament legislation was under discussion. The sub-group was consulted directly on the proposed ballot paper for the Scottish Parliament election at a meeting of the sub-group on 10 August 2006.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Driving

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many drivers his Department employs in Afghanistan. [162716]

Mr. Thomas: DFID currently employ five drivers in Afghanistan.

Departmental Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's personnel are in each province of Iraq; what their role is in each province; and if he will make a statement. [162520]

Mr. Thomas: DFID currently has four permanent staff in Baghdad and one in Basra. DFID Baghdad comprises the Head of Office, a Deputy Head, a Programme Officer and an Office Manager. In Basra, the DFID staff member is integrated into the Consulate.

DFID's role in Iraq is to support the government in unlocking its own human and financial resources. To this end, staff in Baghdad oversee three main programmes: economic reform, developing the machinery of government and donor co-ordination of humanitarian relief efforts. The DFID representative in Basra oversees DFID's power and water projects, and economic and governance work through the UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Team.

Developing Countries: Debts

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of heavily indebted countries at risk from vulture funds' actions; and if he will make a statement. [162388]

Mr. Thomas: World Bank and International Monetary Fund staff conducted a survey on this issue in May 2007. It identified 11 heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs) that had been targeted with lawsuits by a total of 46 litigating creditors. In addition, two countries reported being threatened by litigation.

Eight new legal actions were reported since the previous survey in 2006, of which five are against Nicaragua, two against Cameroon, and one against Ethiopia. The HIPCs facing the most litigation cases are Nicaragua, the Republic of Congo, Cameroon, and Uganda, with nine, eight, seven, and six lawsuits respectively.

This information is included in the latest annual joint World Bank/International Monetary Fund status of implementation report on the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). The report is available on the World Bank website.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on ensuring that highly indebted poor countries have access to the legal assistance they need to defend themselves against litigation from vulture funds, with particular reference to the proposals at the African Development Bank to develop a legal assistance facility to help countries facing legal action gain access to technical and legal support; and if he will make a statement. [162389]

Mr. Thomas: The UK welcomes the consideration being given by the African Development Bank to develop a legal assistance facility to help countries

facing creditor litigation. The bank has recently conducted a feasibility study on the establishment of such a facility. We will continue to influence and support the bank in this endeavour and to seek support from other donors for this initiative.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to protect developing countries from the effects of the activities of vulture funds. [162492]

Mr. Thomas: We are working to address this problem in two ways—by seeking to prevent debts being sold to vulture funds in the first place and by limiting the damage done by cases already under way. To reduce the risk of debts falling into the hands of vulture funds, we are working with the World Bank to help poor countries buy back their commercial debts at a discount through the Debt Reduction Facility. The debts are then dealt with and cannot be taken through a court. More than $8 billion (approx. £4 billion) of debts have already been cancelled in this way. We are also working with heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs) to strengthen their debt management capacity and overall governance.

In cases where poor countries' debts are already in the hands of vulture funds, we are working with the African Development Bank and others to ensure that countries have access to legal advice to help them fight these cases. The strong defence that the Government of Zambia mounted recently, for example, reduced its liability by around $40 million (approx. £20 million). It was the first defence case of this kind that has been even partially successful.

The UK will also continue to raise this issue internationally. At the recent annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, G7 Finance Ministers agreed to examine whether additional steps can be taken to address this problem.

Guatemala: Children

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has given to non-governmental organisation offices working with street children in Guatemala in the last 12 months. [162603]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has given no funding to non-governmental organisations' offices working with street children in Guatemala in the last 12 months.

Iraq: Security Guards

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much his Department spent on private contractors providing protection services in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each year since 2003; [162518]

(2) what private contractors have provided protection services for his Department in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each year since 2003. [162534]

Mr. Thomas: DFID engages private security companies for security of our staff in high threat environments. ArmorGroup, Control Risks Group (CRG), and Kroll have provided mobile security for DFID staff, consultants and static guarding for our compounds in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Since June 2004, DFID's security needs in Iraq have been met by contracts managed and administered by the FCO. The following costs have been incurred by DFID:

	Cost to DFID (£ million)
2003-04	[1]5.0
2004-05	14.2
2005-06	12.9
2006-07	6.1
2007-08	[2]—
Total	38.2

[1] DFID contract.
[2] Not yet available.

The Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) Iraq Strategy also has significant programme spend on Police/Prison reform—elements of police capacity building programme contracted to ArmorGroup who utilise both CRG and military (escorts) to provide security for their personnel.

In Afghanistan, DFID has awarded a number of contracts to ArmorGroup for armed protection of the main DFID office and residential compounds. These contracts also provide close protection (armed bodyguards) to staff when travelling to locations in Afghanistan deemed medium/high risk, and defensive driving training to our locally employed drivers. The value of these contracts from June 2004 to December 2006 was £3,217,691. Since January 2007, DFID's security needs have been met through a contract issued by the FCO, and the total DFID contribution to this contract this financial year was £949,567 by June 2007.

Jamaica: Overseas Aid

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's aid programme for Jamaica was in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [162231]

Mr. Thomas: Information on UK aid to Jamaica is available in the DFID publication 'Statistics on International Development 2007'. This publication is available online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

In 2006-07 DFID gave £5.8 million in bilateral aid to Jamaica. The imputed UK share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) to Jamaica in 2005 was £1.4 million.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol: Prosecutions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were prosecuted for selling alcohol to minors in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* Dacorum in each of the last five years. [163417]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested on persons proceeded against for selling alcohol to persons under 18 years in each of the last five years in Hertfordshire is provided in the attached table. Information on prosecutions in Dacorum is not available as the data is not held at that level of detail.

In addition to court proceedings, the offence of sale of alcohol to a person under 18 can attract a penalty notice for disorder (PND). The offence was added to the PND scheme on 1 November 2004. No PNDs were issued in Hertfordshire in November and December 2004 and three were issued in 2005. Data for 2006 will be available in November 2007.

The results of the national Tackling Underage Sales Enforcement Campaign (TUSAC), during which 2,683 premises were targeted by police and trading standards officers during a 10-week campaign between 4 May and 13 July 2007, show that in nearly 9,000 test purchase operations children were only able to obtain alcohol in 14.7 per cent. of cases.

In 2004, the overall test purchase failure rate was 50 per cent. In 2006, it had dropped to 20 per cent. In this latest and more targeted campaign it now stands at 15 per cent. overall.

Whereas earlier enforcement campaigns were conducted on a random sample of premises, good and bad, this campaign targeted premises known to problematic. A further reduction in the failure rate is therefore particularly encouraging.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selling alcohol to underage customers, Hertfordshire police force area 2001-05[1,2,3]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2001	—	—
2002	1	—
2003	1	—
2004	8	6
2005	3	1

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

[2] Covers the offences: Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises under the Licensing Act 1964 s. 169 A and B as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 s.1, Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18 under the Licensing Act 1964 s.181 A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 s.17, Sale of alcohol to a person under 18 under the Licensing Act 2003 s. 146 and Allowing Sale of alcohol to a person under 18 under the Licensing Act 2003 s. 147. Sections 146 and 147 of the 2003 Licensing Act only came into effect from 24 November 2005, so data prior to 2005 are not available.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
RDS—Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Anti-Terrorism Control Orders

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how frequently control orders are subject to review; and what form such review takes. [162207]

Mr. McNulty: Each non-derogating control order is valid for 12 months and will be automatically subject to a judicial review before the High Court.

The controlled person may also appeal a dispute relating to any modification of the control order with any such appeal also being heard at the High Court.

In addition, the Home Office has established a review group, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular (quarterly), formal and audited review.

Lord Carlile, the Independent Reviewer of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, reviews the operation of the Act on an annual basis.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of control orders. [162209]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office keeps the effectiveness of control orders under review. We continue to assess that control orders are an essential tool to protect the public from terrorism.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many control orders are active. [162211]

Mr. McNulty: I would refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement published on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 126-28WS.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals currently subjected to control orders have previous convictions for terrorism-related offences. [162212]

Mr. McNulty: None of the individuals currently subject to control orders have previous convictions for terrorism-related offences.

One individual has been convicted of breaching his control order and sentenced to five months' imprisonment.

Crime: Victims

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged 65 years and over in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk have been victims of crime in each of the last five years. [162590]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available centrally. Details of the age of victims of crime are not available from the recorded crime statistics. The British Crime Survey collects details of the victim's age and can look at victimisation of those aged 65 and over at a national level. However, this data cannot be reliably broken down at either regional or police force area level.

Crimes of Violence: Retail Trade

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the incidence of physical violence against retailers in

the last 12 months; what representations she has received on the subject; and what steps she intends to take to reduce the levels of physical violence against retailers. [162075]

Mr. Coaker: Figures on physical violence against retailers are not available from the recorded crime series as no details of the victim's employment are recorded.

We are aware of the concerns of retailers and retail organisations about threats and actual violence against shop staff and we are fully committed to working with them, both through the National Retail Crime Steering Group and through other means, to address these concerns.

We also support Usdaw's 'Freedom from Fear' campaign and the Union has been invited to nominate a representative to attend future meetings of the National Retail Crime Steering Group.

Handguns: Ireland

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has received reports of illegal guns arriving in mainland Great Britain through the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland; and if she will make a statement. [163010]

Mr. Coaker: Advice from HM Revenue and Customs is that there is little or no current intelligence to suggest that prohibited firearms are being brought into mainland Britain from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Motor Vehicles: Glass

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is made available to police forces in England and Wales on enforcement of the visual light transmission standard imposed by Regulation 32 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986. [161905]

Mr. Coaker: Enforcement of Regulation 32 is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police and for the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. No central guidance has been issued and information is not collected centrally on how much forces spend on equipment to test compliance.

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money was spent by police forces in England and Wales on equipment capable of measuring compliance with the visual light transmission standard imposed by Regulation 32 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 in each of the last five years. [161947]

Mr. Coaker: Enforcement of Regulation 32 is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police and for the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. No central guidance has been issued and information is not collected centrally on how much forces spend on equipment to test compliance.

Offensive Weapons: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of knife crime were reported in Milton Keynes in each year between 1997 and 2007. [162749]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is not yet available. Data on knife-enabled grievous bodily harm and robbery offences have been collected centrally since April 2007. Figures for 2007-08 will be published in July 2008 in the next annual 'Crime in England and Wales' volume. It will, however, be possible to provide breakdowns only at police force area level.

Police: Doctors

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was to each police authority in England and Wales of employing healthcare professionals at custody suites in each of the last five years. [162089]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The allocation of resources within each force area is a matter for the Chief Officer and the Police Authority.

Police: Tourists

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what information her Department uses to estimate the number of tourists visiting police authority areas in England and Wales; [162092]

(2) what adjustments are made to the police formula grant in England and Wales to take account of the numbers of tourists visiting individual police authority areas. [162093]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* A new funding formula for allocating police general grant was introduced in 2006-07. During the discussions on the new formula, in which representatives from ACPO and the APA and the wider policing community were involved, it was concluded that no reliable indicator of tourism exists.

A full consultation on options for change took place in the summer of 2005-06 where all representations were fully taken into account.

Security Guards: Licensing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the fee is for applying for a Security Industry Authority licence for security guarding; and what the fee was in each of the last two years. [162579]

Mr. Coaker: Since 6 April 2007, the fee for applying for a Security Industry Authority (SIA) licence has been set at £245 for two years, subject to review.

Before this date, the SIA licence application fee was £190.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the impact of the licensing regime on the UK security industry, with particular reference to the costs of and delays in issuing licences. [162801]

Mr. Coaker: The Security Industry Authority (SIA) published research in July 2007 on the impact of licensing on security guards and door supervisors. This is available on the SIA website at:

http://www.the-sia.org.uk/home/about_sia/publications_research.htm.

Stop and Search

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the power to authorise stop and search for offensive weapons within a specified area for the period of 24 hours under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 was used by a senior police officer in each year since the Act came into force. [163714]

Mr. Coaker: Available information on stops and searches of persons or vehicles under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 from 1995 to 2005-06 can be found in the following table.

Searches of persons or vehicles under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and resultant arrests England and Wales

Number

	Stops and searches in anticipation of violence			
	Total searches	*Number of persons found to be carrying offensive weapons or dangerous instruments*	*Arrests for offensive weapons*	*Arrests for other reasons*
1995 (from 10 April)	2,380	205	58	109
1996	7,020	187	132	371
1996-97	7,970	177	129	392
1997-98	7,970	377	103	332
1998-99[1]	5,500	213	91	84
1999-00	6,340	59	36	195
2000-01	11,330	357	309	411
2001-02	18,900	1,367	203	485
2002-03[2]	44,400	1,568	356	2,142
2003-04[3]	40,400	557	299	1,248
2004-05[4]	41,600	286	256	958
2005-06	36,300	542	192	1,522

[1] Figures updated since publication of the 1998-99 Bulletin.
[2] Figures updated since publication of the 2002-03 Bulletin.
[3] Figures updated since publication of the 2003-04 Bulletin.
[4] Figures updated since publication of the 200-05 Bulletin.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the people detained without charge on suspicion of terrorist offences since July 2006 were released *(a)* before 10 days, *(b)* between 11 and 20 days, *(c)* between 21 and 26 days, *(d)* on the 27th day and *(e)* on the 28th day. [164010]

Mr. McNulty: The 14 day detention period came into effect on 20 January 2004 and the maximum period of detention pre-charge was extended to 28 days with effect from 25 July 2006. The following table, compiled from police records, provides details, to date, of the numbers of individuals charged or released and held from between 14 to 15 days and through to 27 to 28 days. We do not collate statistics for the timescales requested.

Period of detention	*Number of persons held*	*Charged*	*Released without charge*
14 to 15 days	1	1	—
18 to 19 days	1	1	—
19 to 20 days	3	3	—
27 to 28 days	6	3	3

WALES

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what contracts his Department has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts are for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163808]

Mr. Hain: In the current financial year my Department entered into a short-term consultancy contract which started on 11 April and ended on 10 May 2007 at a total cost of £4,700.

Departmental Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales at which functions his Department incurred expenditure on hospitality in 2006-07; and how much expenditure was incurred at each function. [162813]

Mr. Hain: During 2006-07 the Wales Office spent £12,265.41 on hospitality for the following events:

	Event	Cost (£)
July 2006	Wales Office Reception for Government of Wales Act 2006 London	3,309.04
December 2006	Wales Office shared reception with Northern Ireland Office	3,524.12
March 2007	Wales Office St. David's Day Reception	3,239.11
March 2007	Wales Office Slavery Abolition Reception	2,193.14

Whistleblowers

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many reports have been made to his Department's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised Civil Service Code since its publication on 6 June 2006. [162477]

Mr. Hain: None.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to his Department by departmental staff since 6 June 2006. [162478]

Mr. Hain: None.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when his Department's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised Civil Service Code. [162479]

Mr. Hain: My Department's whistleblowing policy statement was updated in October 2006.

Public Expenditure

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what in-year changes were made to the Barnett formula as it applies to Wales in each year since 2000. [164000]

Mr. Hain: The Barnett formula remains unchanged. Revised editions of the Treasury publication "Funding the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly—a Statement of Funding Policy" were published in 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2007. These contain full details of the Barnett formula including changes to the population factors and the comparability factors.

In addition, the population factors are revised on an annual basis to take account of the updated mid-year estimates of population published by the Office for National Statistics.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departmental Property

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the cost to the public purse was of providing a square metre of office space on the parliamentary estate in 2006-07. [162487]

Nick Harvey: The average resource cost of a square metre of space on the parliamentary estate in 2006-07 was £651. This is a high-level figure covering the whole of the estate, including unusable spaces. Detailed cost figures for office space only are not readily available. A costing system is under development to provide detailed unit cost information by the end of 2007-08.

Palace of Westminster: Parking

Mr. Harper: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) if the Commission will consider introducing a scheme to enable hon. Members to book disabled parking bays for their guests; [162619]

(2) what enforcement procedures are in place to ensure that parking bays designated for people with disabilities in the Palace of Westminster are used by blue badge holders only; [162620]

(3) what recent assessment the Commission has made of the adequacy of parking arrangements for disabled visitors to the Palace of Westminster. [162621]

Nick Harvey: Parking spaces for Members and staff with disabilities or mobility problems are provided in Star Chamber Court. If space is available and advance notice is given, the Serjeant at Arms office will endeavour to accommodate Members' guests although this cannot be guaranteed. Priority is given to Blue Badge holders driving the vehicle. Able-bodied drivers are normally given permission to drop off a passenger and park elsewhere. Occasionally it is possible to arrange for parking in the House of Lords for such visitors.

Permission to park in designated bays is occasionally given to Members or staff who have temporary disabilities such as a broken limb or following major surgery so the bays are not limited to Blue Badge holders only.

The provision of parking facilities for people with disabilities is kept under review and the Serjeant at Arms office records details of permissions given to ensure that the limited spaces are not overbooked.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Constituencies: Parliament

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what calculations the Commission has made of the number of parliamentary constituencies there would be in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland if all constituencies had equal numbers of voters. [163633]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission has no statutory responsibilities in relation to parliamentary constituency boundaries, and informs me that it has made no such calculations.

TRANSPORT

Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents of *(a)* carbon monoxide and *(b)* organophosphates poisoning were reported on (i) Flybe 146 flights, (ii) 146 aircraft, (iii) Boeing 757 flights and (iv) other flights in the last year for which figures are available. [163162]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The CAA's mandatory occurrence reporting scheme (MORS) database contains reports of contaminated air events submitted by UK operators. The nature of any potential contaminant is not recorded on the database. In accordance with its regulatory practice, the CAA's data analysis does not identify the operators or aircraft registrations and has been aggregated to include all UK operators.

The last full year for which figures are available is 2006. In that year there were 109 contaminated air events. These figures break down by aircraft type as follows:

Aircraft type	*Number of contaminated air events*
Boeing 757	43
BAe146	17
Airbus A319	10
Embraer EMB 145	9
Airbus A320	7
Boeing 737	5
Various other aircraft	18
Total	109

Aviation: Fireworks

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many passenger aircraft have reported instances of near misses with fireworks in the last 10 years; and at what altitude each of the aircraft was when the near miss took place; [162766]

(2) how many passenger aircraft have been struck by fireworks in the last 10 years; at what altitude each aircraft was struck; and what damage was sustained. [162767]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Over the last 10 years, there have been 33 reports of fireworks in the vicinity of passenger aircraft within UK airspace, and six reports of passenger aircraft struck by fireworks in UK airspace.

The reported altitude and aircraft damage (if applicable) for each event is summarised in the following tables by year. Where the altitude of the aircraft was not reported, the data is recorded as "unknown".

Fireworks reported in vicinity of passenger aircraft

	Number	*Height (feet)*
1998	1	7,300
1999	2	8,000, 300
2000	1	500
2001	3	600, 400, 400
2002	6	Unknown, 300, 400, 150, 300, 300
2003	6	200, 1,200, 350, 400, 450, 350
2004	2	150, 400
2005	6	800, 150, unknown, 600, 450, 250
2006	4	700, 200, 3,000, 0
2007	2	150, 700
Total	33	—

Passenger aircraft struck by fireworks

	Number	*Height (feet)*	*Damage to aircraft*
1998	0	n/a	n/a
1999	0	n/a	n/a
2000	1	100	No
2001	0	n/a	n/a
2002	1	800	No
2003	2	560, 250	No
2004	1	Unknown	No
2005	0	n/a	n/a
2006	0	n/a	n/a
2007	1	300	Scorched paint
Total	6	—	—

Aviation: Noise

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of the Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources in England study published by her Department on 2 November 2007; and how much was spent on fees to MVA consultants. [162080]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The current cost of the Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources in England (ANASE) project is £1,458,711.1. Of which, £1,401,517.60 represents fees to MVA consultants.

British Transport Police: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total serving strength of the British Transport Police is; and how many officers work primarily in *(a)* airports and *(b)* international railway stations. [163136]

Mr. Tom Harris: As at 31 March 2007 the British Transport Police comprised 2,818 serving officers, 252 Community Support Officers and 1,121 support staff.

The British Transport Police do not police the airports.

The other information requested is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, e-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11;

what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each asset is; what the expected revenue from each sale is; and if she will make a statement. [164157]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The requested information, where not commercially sensitive, has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Welsh speakers her Department employs. [162899]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Invalid Vehicles: Accidents

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents involving mobility scooters were recorded in each of the last three years records for which information is available. [163108]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Mobility scooters involved in personal injury road accidents reported to the police are recorded under the other motor vehicle category and cannot be identified as a distinct group of vehicles.

Level Crossings: Death

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many deaths there were at *(a)* unmanned and *(b)* manned railway crossings in each of the last five years. [163592]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information is contained in the following table:

Fatalities at (a) unmanned and (b) manned crossings from 2002-06[1]

	(a) Unmanned crossings	*(b) Manned crossings*	*Total*
2002	13	1	14
2003	15	1	16
2004	15	2	17
2005	13	1	14
2006	8	0	8
Total	64	5	69

[1] These data are based on accident notifications sent by railway companies to the Office of Rail Regulation's HM Railway Inspectorate, under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations, 1995.

Fatalities caused by trespass and confirmed suicides are excluded from these data.

Level Crossings: Frinton-on-Sea

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what consideration of safety factors there will be before a decision is reached on the future of the manned railway crossing at Frinton-on-Sea; [163489]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effect of changing from a manned railway crossing to an unmanned railway crossing in Frinton-on-Sea on safety; and what the evidential basis is for her assessment. [163591]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Office of Rail Regulation's (ORR) HM Railway Inspectorate (HMRI) is currently assessing Network Rail's proposal to modernise Frinton-on-Sea crossing. As required by the Level Crossings Act 1983, ORR's consideration of the safety factors at level crossings must take into account the "safety and convenience of all users at or near the level crossing".

At present, ORR's view is that Network Rail's plans to modernise the crossing are acceptable, subject to continuing discussion and agreement as the scheme progresses. ORR plans to meet local people on Friday 16 November to discuss their representations. Essex county council has given approval in principle for the highway element of the crossing modernisation.

The existing arrangements at the level crossing are unsuitable to deal with the current volume of road traffic and rail traffic. The planned modernisation will reduce risks to all crossing users, particularly those from the local community who have disabilities. It will also reduce risks to Network Rail's own staff—the current level crossing arrangements pose a significant risk to the safety of the crossing keeper.

Under Network Rail's planned proposals the crossing will be monitored at all times by the railway signaller from the signal box using closed circuit television. This is a common method of operation on level crossing across Britain's mainline railway network. These types of automatic barrier level crossings which are locally monitored have a very good safety record.

Motor Vehicles: Glass

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much money was spent by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in each of the last three years on *(a)* equipment used to measure the visual light transmission (VLT) standard for vehicle window tint and *(b)* enforcement actions related to infringement of the VLT standard by drivers. [161949]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has spent the following on equipment used to measure the visual light transmission standard for vehicle window tint:

	Amount
2007-08	[1]5,918.00
2006-07	7,410.00
2005-06	9,195.00
2004-05	15,400.00

[1] To date

VOSA does not record the costs uniquely for enforcement actions related to infringement of the VLT. To retrieve this information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many copies of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency leaflet Tinted Windows: Your Questions Answered have been *(a)* printed and *(b)* requested by members of the public in each of the last three years. [161950]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has printed the following numbers of copies of the leaflet 'Tinted Windows: Your questions Answered' in the last three years:

	Copies
2005	5,000
2006	0
2007	10,000

VOSA does not record the number requests received for leaflets.

Overcrowding: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what facilities will be put in place to ensure that commuters travelling between Liverpool Street and Chelmsford will not be affected by severe congestion during the Olympics. [162131]

Mr. Tom Harris: The transport arrangements for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games are set out in the Olympic Delivery Authority's Olympic Transport Plan, which was published on the 23 October 2007. This includes a number of measures in and around Stratford designed to increase the number of trains on the Great Eastern Mainline out of Liverpool Street that are able to stop at Stratford, and thus reduce the likelihood of congestion on this route.

Performance Standards: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the standard of service on the Liverpool Street to Chelmsford line for commuters; and if she will make a statement. [162133]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State for Transport has not undertaken an assessment of the standard of service on the Liverpool Street to Chelmsford line for commuters. Passenger surveys are undertaken by Passenger Focus. The results of the latest National Passenger Survey (Spring 2007) are available on the website at www.passengerfocus.org.uk.

Railway Stations: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with Stroud district council on the proposed new railway station at Hunts Grove. [163109]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State has had no discussions with Stroud district council on a proposed new station at Hunts Grove.

Railways: Finance

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the accumulated public sector cost of the railways in the UK has been since 1997, including subsidies, loans and borrowing guaranteed by the Government. [162186]

Mr. Tom Harris: Historic Government support to the Rail Industry is set out in Table 6.2a of National Rail Trends which is published by the Office of Rail Regulation. Copies are available in the Library of the House. The Government also provide a financial indemnity (FIM) to Network Rail's lenders, has issued guarantees in respect of certain bonds that have been issued to finance the channel tunnel rail link (CTRL) project and has issued a guarantee in respect of CTRL track access payments. Full details of these arrangements have been previously notified to Parliament and are set out in the Department's Resource Accounts. As at 31 March 2007, Network Rail's FIM backed debt stood at £19.8 billion, and the CTRL guarantee arrangements were valued at some £4.38 billion.

Rapid Transit Systems

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many light rail schemes have been completed and opened since 1997. [163422]

Mr. Tom Harris: The following light rail schemes have been completed and opened since 1997:

	Light rail scheme
1999	Midland Metro
1999	Docklands Light Railway extension to Lewisham
2000	Croydon Tramlink
2000	Manchester Metrolink Phase II (to Eccles)
2002	Tyne and Wear Metro Sunderland extension
2004	Nottingham Express Transit
2005	Docklands Light Railway extension to London City Airport

South West Trains: Winchester

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason she decided not to include the Winchester to Romsey Rail Link bus service in the franchise re-awarded to South West Trains; and if she will make a statement. [162606]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Winchester to Romsey Rail Link bus service was not explicitly included within the South Western franchise specification. Bidders were asked to consider transport integration within their bids, and to seek opportunities within the franchise area. The improved rail service from Romsey in recent years and the loss-making nature of the existing Rail Link bus service resulted in Stagecoach deciding that it would be poor value to continue with the service.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many personal injury collisions occurred at the site of each fixed speed camera in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* Dacorum in the 12 months (i) before and (ii) after installation of each. [163424]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is not held in the form requested. Fixed cameras operated by the Hertfordshire Safety Camera Partnership under the national safety camera programme, which ended on 31 March 2007, reduced the number of personal injury collisions at camera sites by an average of 49 per cent. per year, comparing all the available after installation data with the three years before installation. This means

around 162 fewer personal injury collisions each year. I have arranged for tables to be placed in the Libraries of the House regarding the performance of fixed speed cameras in Hertfordshire.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to assist farmers with protection from *(a)* flooding and *(b)* waterlogging. [162069]

Mr. Woolas: The operating authorities are encouraged to manage flood risk within a strategic, catchment-wide approach. Such works may be grant-aided by my Department if they meet our criteria and many farmers receive considerable benefit from public investment in this area. The Environment Agency also provides information on flood risk and advice to farmers on managing their land to reduce the likelihood and impacts from floods and water-logging.

Bees: Diseases

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has undertaken to investigate the phenomena of Colony collapse disorder; and whether he intends to make more funds available for research into honey bees. [162134]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA is aware of the press reports about the serious situation in the USA in respect of cases of abnormally high levels of colony loss described as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Scientists and inspectors at the National Bee Unit (NBU) are monitoring the situation and are in contact with experts in the USA and Europe to learn about developments.

However, we do not have evidence to suggest that there is something similar happening in the UK. The very limited number of cases of high losses which have occurred this season, for which there is no ready explanation, are being investigated in depth by the NBU and bee inspectors. The causes of significant colony losses are being considered as part of the Central Science Laboratory and the NBU's horizon scanning work. Initial results indicate high levels of virus in samples taken from dead or dying colonies.

DEFRA's annual expenditure on bee health research has averaged around £200,000 since 2001. However, there is an ongoing review of expenditure on all DEFRA programmes, including bee health, and future funding will need to be considered alongside the full range of priorities facing the Department.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if the review group investigating bovine tuberculosis led by Sir David King will take steps to engage with the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB. [162061]

Jonathan Shaw: Sir David King is arranging a meeting with Professor Bourne and other members of the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB to discuss his report on badgers and bovine tuberculosis in cattle.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to introduce the use of reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction for the testing of cattle for bovine tuberculosis. [162818]

Jonathan Shaw: Under EU regulations, the tuberculin skin test is (and is likely to continue to be) the primary diagnostic test for TB in live cattle in the field. We foresee only a minor, if any, role for non-immunological assays in the screening of cattle populations for TB.

DEFRA has been funding work using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technique to develop tests for *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*) since 1999. This has included work to develop a reliable and rapid bovine TB screening test that can detect the presence of *M. bovis* DMA in infected cattle tissues. Work to date shows the value of the application of PCR techniques in certain situations, for example in cattle tissue samples from suspect cases of TB disclosed at routine slaughter, where the speed of the result is of importance.

The use of automated PCR machines has been trialled by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency for use in routine detection of *M. bovis* in a range of bovine tissue samples in the laboratory. A review of this and its incorporation into routine laboratory diagnostic techniques is currently being planned. However, PCR is not yet as sensitive, specific or reliable as conventional bacterial culture in detecting TB.

DEFRA is investing £1.3 million on work on PCR over the next 3 years that will allow us to tell the difference between *M. bovis* and similar species from environmental samples. This is not likely to be available as a field test in the short term.

No reverse transcription stage is required for the detection of *M. bovis* organisms by PCR, as DMA (not RNA) is the constitutive nucleic acid in the genome of mycobacteria.

Climate Change

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on tackling climate change by his Department in 2006; and if he will provide a breakdown of this spending by main category of expenditure. [162050]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the DEFRA annual report.

Departmental Property

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on rationalising his Department's property portfolio; and if he will make a statement. [162782]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The Department has a business-led estates strategy which will deliver a reduction of the Estate of approximately

20 per cent. by March 2011. In London a 50 per cent. reduction in office accommodation has already been achieved from a 2003 baseline.

This rationalisation strategy supports the Renew DEFRA Business Reform Programme which is aimed at providing an efficient Department, including its Executive Agency delivery bodies, occupying a sustainable office portfolio and reducing the Departmental carbon footprint.

Disposals already identified over the current CSR period will deliver the initial 20 per cent. target reduction and the Department is already looking to identify other opportunities to further reduce the operational property portfolio both in London, and nationally in line with Departmental business need.

The principal strategy is to deliver a modern sustainable workplace which is cost effective and enables the Department, including its Executive Agency delivery bodies, to deliver its key business objectives.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms his Department has established to evaluate the effectiveness of standard assessment procedures in relation to energy efficiency. [161897]

Mr. Woolas: I assume the hon. Member is referring to standard assessment procedures (SAP) software approvals.

We have contracted the Building Research Establishment (BRE) to evaluate third party produced SAP software that would be used by SAP assessors. Software submitted to BRE are tested against the approvals criteria which determine for example, the accuracy of assessment results.

If the software meets the requirements, then an approval for its use to determine compliance with Part L of the Building Regulations for England and Wales is issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by central Government on energy conservation in Huddersfield in each year since 2004-05. [162541]

Mr. Woolas: Energy conservation is a broad term that could refer to many activities implemented by a wide number of Government institutions. As such, it is not possible to accurately estimate the total Government spend in Huddersfield.

DEFRA's main programme for improving the energy efficiency of vulnerable households is the Warm Front Scheme, which provides grants for heating and insulation measures. Warm Front spend on measures in Huddersfield is set out in the following table:

Financial year	*Huddersfield (£)*
2004-05	594,825.32
2005-06	293,090.61
2006-07	881,334.24
Year to date	797,105.08
Total	2,566,355.25

Environment Agency: Flood Control

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when the Environment Agency will announce its new plans for the improvement of flood defences; [161944]

(2) what recent assessment the Environment Agency has made of the present condition of flood defences for which they are responsible. [161945]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is currently reviewing its business plans for 2008-09 in light of the recent Comprehensive Spending Review settlement. It will announce its proposals for the improvement of flood defences in February 2008.

The Environment Agency currently inspects assets on a risk based programme and assesses the national position on a quarterly basis.

The proportion (by length) of flood defences such as raised walls and embankments, maintained by the Environment Agency that were in good or better condition in April 2007 was 55 per cent. A further 40 per cent. were in a fair condition.

The proportion (by number) of flood defence structures, such as sluices and outfalls, maintained by the Environment Agency that were in good or better condition in April 2007 was 69 per cent. A further 26 per cent. were in a fair condition.

Flood Control: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funds were allocated for flood protection to *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(b)* East Anglia and *(c)* London in each of the last five years. [162177]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is the principal operating authority with responsibility for flood risk management in England. The following table shows Environment Agency expenditure for the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC) (which covers Yorkshire and the north bank of the Humber estuary) and Anglian RFDC. Thames RFDC covers a wider area than just London but the figures indicate funds allocated for flood protection in Greater London only.

£ million

Area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Yorkshire and Number	37.3	33.4	40.7	34.0	35.1
Anglian	71.2	71.0	86.5	95.6	78.6
Thames (London only)	39.1	41.1	47.2	45.5	43.7

Some further works will have been carried out by local authorities and internal drainage boards but these will be significantly lower than the sums expended by the Agency.

Floods: Insurance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to encourage small businesses to take out business interruption insurance cover in relation to flooding. [161890]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

Together with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Association of British Insurers, my Department is reviewing the current guidance that we make available on businesslink.gov and the best means to promote the importance of being adequately insured against the risk of flooding.

Floods: North East Region

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the number of homes at risk from *(a)* river flooding, *(b)* coastal flooding and *(c)* surface water flooding in the North East region. [162178]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency's 2006 National Flood Risk Assessment identified 295,900 homes at risk from river and coastal flooding in the north east region. 138,200 of these are at risk from river flooding and 153,000 homes are at risk from coastal flooding. In addition there are 4,700 properties at risk from both river and coastal flooding.

The Environment Agency's National Flood Risk Assessment does not include surface water flooding, but its flood map shows areas that are known to have been flooded. This will include some areas of surface water flooding but in many instances this takes place in conjunction with river flooding and it is not possible to separate the two.

Floods: Risk Assessment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what plans he has to review the number of bodies involved with and the coordination between them relating to mapping flood risk, including scope for better coordination; [162031]

(2) what plans he has to review bodies involved in mapping flood risk; and what plans he has to improve co-ordination between them. [162182]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is the only public sector organisation that maps flood risk on a national scale and it is funded by DEFRA to do so. The agency co-operates with local authorities and other bodies undertaking flood risk assessments and mapping for different purposes. It will continue to improve its maps over time as technology develops.

Floods: Warnings

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what review has been undertaken of the *(a)* channels of communication and *(b)* liaison on warnings between the Environment Agency and the Meteorological Office at times of flooding. [162032]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency's review of the summer floods will include looking at communications and liaison on flood warnings and will inform the independent review being undertaken by Sir Michael Pitt.

Separately, the agency is leading a joint project with the Met Office to identify improvements in notification of major rainfall or other flood-causing severe events and in the procedures to be followed by both organisations.

Floods: Yorkshire and the Humber

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the likely cost of putting in place defences to protect Yorkshire from river flooding; [162028]

(2) what estimate he has made of how much it would cost to protect Yorkshire from river flooding. [162180]

Mr. Woolas: It is not feasible to completely protect against flooding.

I understand the Yorkshire RFDC has a programme of possible expenditure on new defences of £364 million over the next 10 years. The amount that is eventually spent will depend on the relative priority of schemes in Yorkshire compared to those elsewhere in the country.

The current Environment Agency estimate of expenditure on all its flood risk management activities (i.e. including such activities as operations and maintenance as well as new defences) in the Yorkshire RFDC area over the next 10 years is £628 million.

Further works may be carried out by local authorities and internal drainage boards but the sums involved are much lower than for the Environment Agency.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of total funding for flood protection Yorkshire and the Humber have received over each of the last five years. [162175]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency collects and holds data on the basis of Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC) boundaries. The Yorkshire RFDC boundary covers Yorkshire and the north bank of the Humber estuary.

The following table shows Yorkshire RFDC percentages of total DEFRA grant in aid allocated to the Environment Agency for flood risk management from 2004-05 onwards (when direct grant from DEFRA replaced the previous mixed system of majority funding from levies on local authorities with some capital grant from DEFRA).

	Percentage allocated RFDC of total FDGIA to Yorkshire
2004-05	8
2005-06	10
2006-07	9
2007-08	9

Further funding would have been provided to local authorities and internal drainage boards but at much lower levels than those provided to the Agency.

Fuel Poverty: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes there have been to the Government's public service agreements on fuel poverty. [162063]

Mr. Woolas: A revised approach to public service agreements (PSAs) was introduced in the comprehensive spending review 2007, with a new set of PSAs coming into effect from April 2008. There is a much smaller number of key cross cutting PSAs, setting a vision for continuous and accelerated improvement in the Government's priority outcomes, and delivered collectively by multiple Departments.

Fuel poverty is firmly embedded in this approach, no longer as a stand alone PSA, which is now contributing to the achievement of wider Government priorities. Fuel poverty is reflected as a component in the delivery of the PSAs on Child Poverty (led by Her Majesty's Treasury), on Independence and Well-being in Later Life (led by Department for Work and Pensions), and on Better Health and Well-being (led by Department of Health). The Government remain committed to tackling fuel poverty and promoting effective cross-departmental work to this end.

My Department's and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's delivery of its responsibilities on fuel poverty will be reflected in these PSAs, and also as part of my Department's ongoing performance reporting systems, which will underpin its annual report to Parliament.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Seeds

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will seek to maintain and strengthen the UN moratorium on the field testing and commercialisation of Terminator seed technology; and if he will make a statement. [162375]

Mr. Woolas: The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) decided in 2000 that there should be a precautionary approach in field testing and commercial development of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTs).

'Terminator seeds' are one example of plants that could potentially be bred using these technologies. The decision is clear that products incorporating GURTs should not be approved for field testing until appropriate scientific data can justify such testing, and for commercial use until appropriate scientific assessments with regard to ecological and socio-economic impacts have been carried out and the conditions for their safe and beneficial use validated.

At the most recent CBD meeting, held in March 2006, governments reaffirmed this decision. We supported the decision. The UK Government's position has not changed on this issue.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the potential effects on UK agriculture of the use of Terminator seed technology; and if he will make a statement. [162376]

Mr. Woolas: My Department has not commissioned any recent research on the potential effects of "Terminator seed" technology on UK agriculture.

We commissioned a desk study of Technologies for Biological Containment of Genetically Modified (GM) and non-GM Crops. The report is available on the DEFRA website.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received from *(a)* Progressio and *(b)* others on Terminator seed technology. [162377]

Mr. Woolas: We have received two recent representations, which included the subject of "Terminator seed" technology, neither of these were from Progressio.

Pigs

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what response he has made to the recommendation of the Farm Animal Welfare Council that the use of aversive gas mixtures for stunning and killing pigs should be phased out within five years; and if he will make a statement. [162903]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* In its response to the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) report, the Government indicated that it would investigate alternatives to the use of carbon dioxide for stunning and killing pigs. DEFRA has commissioned two research projects that will examine the use of other gases or gas mixtures (including inert gases) for these purposes. The work commenced in 2005, but it will take at least five years to complete. The Government's response confirmed that it could not make a commitment to phase out the use of carbon dioxide within five years while there was no certainty that an effective alternative system would be available within that time frame. This remains the position.

Wild Boar

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to *(a)* finalise and *(b)* publish his Department's strategy for wild boar management. [162803]

Joan Ruddock: We intend to finalise our policy on feral wild boar management by the end of 2007 and will publish it as soon as is practical.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will place in the Library a breakdown of his Department's efficiency savings in relation to its Spending Review 2004 (SR04) targets, including *(a)* the efficiency projects in the Department, *(b)* the date on which each of these projects was initiated and *(c)* how much was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [162316]

Mr. Woodward: Details of the Northern Ireland Office's efficiency savings in relation to Spending Review 2004 can be seen in the Department's Efficiency Technical Note. A copy is available in the Library.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Prison Service: Homophobia

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Solicitor-General with reference to her answer of 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1145W, on Prison Service: homophobia, for what reason this information is not held by the Treasury Solicitor; and if she will make a statement. [163233]

The Solicitor-General: The Treasury Solicitor keeps records primarily to meet the operational needs of his Department as the Government's solicitor. Cases tend to be categorised according to client and according to the nature of the claim at law, for example, assault, personal injury, unfair dismissal, misfeasance, judicial review. Homophobia as such does not constitute a claim at law. Rather, it may be, or may be perceived to be, a motivating factor in many kinds of claim. Whether, in any case, homophobia has been such a factor may never be established leaving the issue speculative and any record based upon it unreliable. No operational purpose of the Treasury Solicitor's Department would be served by keeping such a record and for that reason, having regard to the duty to be cost-effective, such records are not kept.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Community Development

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on the Where We Live programme in each of the last three years. [163518]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The Where We Live programme now has the new brand-name of Living Places.

The programme is delivered through a partnership between the five leading national cultural agencies, DCMS, DCLG and the Regional Cultural Consortia.

Its aim is to ensure all communities can benefit from cultural and sporting opportunities by embedding culture in the development of our villages, towns and cities.

DCMS contributed £20,000 towards the Thames Gateway Forum in 2006.

DCMS has yet to be invoiced for its contribution of £20,000 from this year's partnership budget.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what efficiency savings his Department was required to make as part of its Spending Review 2004 (SR04) targets; what efficiency projects have been undertaken in the Department in pursuit of those targets; on what date each was initiated; and how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [162321]

Margaret Hodge: The Department has five efficiency programme streams that contribute to its overall target of £262 million savings over the SR04 spending period. Latest figures up to June 2007 are:

	June 2007 outturn	*£ million March 2008 target*
DCMS Internal	1	2
Museums and galleries NDPBs	52.9	45
Heritage NDPBs	12.8	14
Strategic NDPBs	52.2	55
Local authorities	84.6	146
Total	203.5	262

Our efficiency savings are reported publicity in our Departmental Annual Report and our Autumn Performance Report. The 2007 Autumn Performance Report, due to be published in December, will contain the latest figures up to September 2007.

Departmental Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many reports have been made to his Department's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised Civil Service Code since its publication on 6 June 2006. [162431]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport's nominated officers have received no reports under paragraph 16 of the revised Civil Service Code since 6 June 2006.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to his Department by departmental staff since 6 June 2006. [162432]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported by staff in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport since 6 June 2006.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many civil servants in his Department *(a)* transferred to other Government Departments and *(b)* left the civil service in each of the last five years. [162741]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Over the last five years a total of *(a)* 347 civil servants in DCMS have transferred to other Government Departments and *(b)* 172 have left the civil service. See following table for breakdown per year.

	Transferred to OGD[1]	*Left civil service*
2002-03	47	23
2003-04	62	27
2004-05	63	36
2005-06	57	53
2006-07	47	33

[1] Please note that figures for transferred civil servants include those on long-term loans to other Government Departments and whose loan period to DCMS came to an end and who returned to their own Department.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Welsh speakers his Department employs. [162890]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We are unable to provide an answer as the Department does not hold information on how many Welsh speakers it employs; the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Football: Community Relations

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which football clubs receive Government funding to operate community schemes; what assessment he has made of these schemes; and if he will make a statement. [162206]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following Government initiatives fund community schemes operated by, or in conjunction with, football clubs.

Playing for Success establishes out of school hours study support centres at professional football clubs and other sports clubs. 80 centres are based in football clubs, including all 20 clubs in the premier league, to which the Department for Children Schools and Families will contribute £5.3 million in 2007-08.

The Home Office funds Positive Futures, a national sports-based social inclusion programme. Six football clubs, (Arsenal, Leyton Orient, Portsmouth, Chelsea, Millwall and Brentford) have Football in the Community Schemes affiliated to them that have successfully applied for Positive Futures programme funding, and will receive a total of £608,074 in 2007-08. The 2007 annual monitoring and evaluation report on the entire Positive Futures Programme is expected to be published in November.

The Kickz scheme, currently delivered in partnership with 19 premiership and 11 football league clubs across the country, offers positive evening activities for young people, including football leagues and education sessions. Evaluation of the four pilot Kickz projects showed that local crime had fallen by an average of 27 per cent. during those times that projects were being held. The Football Foundation received £1 million to help expand the Kickz programme from four to 25 clubs in 2006 and a further £1 million was allocated to Kickz in September 2007.

I am arranging for further details of these schemes and participating clubs to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Legacy Lives Conference

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many government bodies are involved in the 2008 Legacy Lives Conference in Barbados; and if he will make a statement. [163721]

Mr. Sutcliffe: UK Sport is the only government body that is involved in this event. In addition, the Chairman of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is due to speak at the conference via video link.

Sports: Drugs

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding the Government have allocated for prevention of doping in sport in each of the last 10 years. [162750]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows UK Sport's, the UK's national anti-doping organisation and lead agency for elite sport, allocation of funding for the prevention of doping in sport in each of the last 10 years.

	£ million
1998-99	0.67
1999-2000	[1]0.62
2000-01	[1]0.61
2001-02	[1]0.89
2002-03	1.16
2003-04	1.40
2004-05	1.77
2005-06	3.12
2006-07	3.01
2007-08	3.27

[1] These entries show budget figures, as records for actual spend are not available. The figure for 2007-08 is a forecast.

Since 2002, Government have paid an annual contribution to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for its work in the prevention of doping in sport. The following table sets out these contributions, which are paid in December each year. The figure for 2007 is a forecast.

	Amount (£)
2002	308,788
2003	339,977
2004	329,056
2005	373,902
2006	337,081
2007	357,758

Sports: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has allocated to sport in each of the last 10 years. [162752]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows how much the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has allocated to Sport in each of the last 10 years, including planned figures for 2007-08.

	£ million
1997-98	50.1
1998-99	49.4
1999-2000	51.9
2000-01	52.6
2001-02	68.8
2002-03	112.1
2003-04	97.5
2004-05	146.2
2005-06	150.0
2006-07	183.2
2007-08	186.4

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made in raising £100 million from the private sector for elite sport announced in the 2006 Budget and referred to in the answer of 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1293-94W, on sports: finance; and if he will make a statement. [163720]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Following discussions with UK Sport, LOCOG and other stakeholders, my Department is tendering for a specialist consultancy to lead this work on our behalf.

The deadline for companies to submit a tender is 7 December, and we expect to appoint the company soon after that date.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Human Rights

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is open to the UK to refer Burma to *(a)* the International Court of Justice and *(b)* another international body for persistent use of forced labour; and if he will make a statement. [164005]

Meg Munn: There are provisions in the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) which allow a state to pursue a complaint that another state has breached an ILO convention; this could ultimately lead to proceedings in the International Court of Justice. However, the Secretariat of the ILO believe that it would be wrong to start such action now in respect of forced labour in Burma. The ILO want to see the Memorandum of Understanding, that they signed with the Burmese government on 26 February 2007, produce results. The memorandum provides that alleged victims of forced labour in Burma will have full freedom to submit complaints to the ILO Liaison Officer in Rangoon.

We support the actions of the ILO aimed at ensuring that Burma complies with its international obligations on forced labour. We are actively working with our European and international partners, as well as through the UN and ILO, to press the regime to end the appalling human rights violations and to engage in a genuine process of national reconciliation involving all relevant parties and groups in Burma.

China: Capital Punishment

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he and Ministers and officials from his Department have had with the Chinese government on the number of crimes punishable by death in China. [162013]

Meg Munn: We regularly urge China, both bilaterally and through the EU, to reduce the number of crimes punishable by death and to adopt transparency on death penalty statistics. The death penalty was discussed at the most recent round of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, held in Beijing on 17 October 2007. We also raised the death penalty at the last round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue, held in London on 5 February 2007.

Cuba: Overseas Aid

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what requests have been made by the US administration for UK funding for the US Freedom Fund for Cuba; what plans his Department has to contribute to such a fund and what assessment his Department has made of the compatibility of the Freedom Fund for Cuba with Article 2 of the UN Charter and related international treaty obligations. [162365]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received no request for UK funding for a US Freedom Fund for Cuba and, therefore, has no plans to contribute to such a fund. The US administration has not released full details of the proposed Freedom Fund and so it would be inappropriate for us to undertake an assessment of the compatibility of the fond with Article 2 of the UN Charter or other international treaty obligations.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contracts his Department has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts are for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163819]

Meg Munn: The information requested by the hon. Member could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Annual expenditure on external consultants is published in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Department's annual reports, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House. The two most recent annual reports also contain details of expenditure on the top five consultancy suppliers. The vast majority of work undertaken for the FCO by

consultants is associated with its major Information Communication Technology and Estate construction programmes.

I also refer the hon. Member to the reply my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 542-43W, and the reply the then Minister for Europe my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) gave to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1474W.

Departmental Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs at which functions during the last year hospitality expenditure was incurred by his Department. [162797]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe on 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1314W.

Further to that answer, Government Hospitality, Protocol Directorate, managed 199 official functions between November 2006 and October 2007. Of these functions, 58 were hosted by Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers or were funded directly by Government Hospitality on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

EU Treaties: Reform

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for which policy areas where a common position has already been agreed at EU level the new EU Foreign Affairs representative will play a lead role following ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon. [161926]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The draft Lisbon Treaty specifies that the high representative for foreign affairs and security policy "shall ensure the implementation of the decisions adopted by the European Council and the Council" on common foreign and security policy issues. He or she would therefore have responsibility for taking forward implementation of common positions and other decisions on foreign and security policy issues where member states decide on action at the EU-level in the Council. Common positions currently in force cover a range of issues, including EU policy towards Belarus, Burma, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran, Ivory Coast, Somalia, Sudan and Uzbekistan.

Iraq: Overseas Workers

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* location of death, *(b)* age at death and *(c)* cause of death was of the 72 British civilians who have died in Iraq since March 2003 referred to in the answer of 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1089-90W, on Iraq: overseas workers. [162734]

Meg Munn: The location and cause of death of the 72 British civilians that have died in Iraq since March 2003 are as follows:

Location	*Number*
Baghdad	23
Basra	8
Mosul	7
Diwaniyah	6
Tikrit	4
Kirkuk	3
Karbala	3
Fallujah	2
Sulaymaniyah	1
Umm Qasr	1
Hit	1
Al Kut	1
Rustamiyah	1
Anbar	1
Bayji	2
Samarra	1
Latifiyah	1
Balad	1

We do not have the location details of the remaining five cases.

Cause	*Number*
Improvised Explosive Device	25
Shot	22
Vehicle borne Improvised Explosive Device	7
Road traffic accident	4
Natural causes	4
Bomb blast	4
Fall	1
Beheaded	1
Suicide	1

Note:
Cause of death was not established in the three remaining cases.

We have no central data for the ages at time of death.

Iraq: Security Guards

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on private contractors providing protection services for his Department in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each year since 2003. [162526]

Dr. Howells: The information requested by the hon. Member is as follows:

	£
Iraq	
2003/04	16,800,000
2004/05	49,500,000
2005/06	47,800,000
2006/07	30,400,000
2007/08	26,000,000
Afghanistan	
2004	4,000,000
2005	4,000,000

	£
2006	15,000,000
2007	19,600,000

The information above covers contracts put in place by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London with private security companies, and reflects the contract values concerned and not the actual spend. All of these contracts cover other Government Departments with the costs thereof being shared accordingly.

The FCO ensures that all contracts are subject to a rigorous selection process so that we obtain best value for money. Any company engaged by the FCO needs to pass through a stringent and transparent procurement process in line with public procurement guidelines and best practice.

Napoleon Gomez Urritia

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on Napoleon Gomez Urritia, leader of the National Union of Mine and Metallurgical Workers of the Mexican Republic known as Los Mineros. [163932]

Meg Munn: On 7 November, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary received a request from British trade union Community for a meeting with Mexican trade union representatives to discuss the issue of Mr. Gomez. A meeting with relevant officials has been offered.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Mexican government on the welfare of Napoleon Gomez Urrutia, leader of the National Union of Mine and Metallurgical Workers of the Mexican Republic known as Los Mineros. [163904]

Meg Munn: My right. hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made no representations to the Mexican government on the welfare of Napoleon Gomez Urrutia.

Pakistan: Overseas Residence

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK passport holders are estimated to be living in Pakistan. [163334]

Meg Munn: The number of passports issued in Islamabad and Karachi over the last 10 years indicates a figure of 35,000 British nationals who live permanently in Pakistan and hold a British passport. However, we estimate that the actual figure could be as high as 80,000 as many Pakistanis are dual nationals who obtain a passport in the UK, but live for a large part of the year in Pakistan.

Saudi Arabia: Official Visits

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total cost to the public purse was of the visit to the UK by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. [163908]

Meg Munn: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 41W.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an assessment of the military situation in Darfur. [162172]

Meg Munn: The military situation is confused because so many of the armed groups have splintered. Darfur remains insecure with continued attacks against African Union Mission in Sudan troops and Government forces, unrest in the internally displaced persons camps and inter-tribal conflict, as well as general banditry. The African Union Mission in Sudan currently has approximately 7,000 troops based in Darfur, under the command of General Agwai. UN Security Council Resolution 1769 mandated the deployment of a 26,000-strong African Union-UN hybrid force. We are working for the prompt and effective deployment of this force and the engagement of all parties in the political process to address the insecurity in Darfur.

Travel Information

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason the WAGs Guide to Travel was produced by his Department; how much it cost; and if he will make a statement. [163831]

Meg Munn: Know Before You Go is a travel safety campaign run by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Consular Directorate, aimed at reducing the problems that British travellers face when on holiday abroad. It focuses both on the general travelling public and on a number of key target audiences who are involved in a disproportionate number of preventable consular cases.

One of the campaign's target groups is young women aged between 16-24. Research shows that this audience responds particularly well to advice from celebrities and other aspirational figures. We therefore decided to involve a football wife and girlfriend (WAG) in the campaign to generate media coverage, which would deliver our messages to this audience.

To front the WAG's guide the campaign recruited Charlotte Mears and she was paid £2,000. Planning and administration of the campaign were covered as part of our ongoing contract with Know Before You Go campaign agencies at no additional cost. In total, Ms Mears worked for 10 hours on the WAG's guide and its promotion. The guide had coverage on GMTV, radio, websites, consumer magazines and national and regional press and generated over 27 million opportunities to hear and see Know Before You Go travel safety messages. This equates to £170,000 worth of media advertising. For an outlay of £2,000 we therefore secured coverage which would have cost £170,000 to buy commercially, making the WAG's initiative a highly cost-effective way of getting safety messages across to a key target audience.

Western Sahara

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations have been made to Morocco to encourage it to join a third round of talks agreed by the Polisario and Algeria on the future of the Western Sahara. [163928]

Dr. Howells: The UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy, Peter van Walsum, and has encouraged the parties to continue negotiations under UN auspices, as set out in UN Security Council Resolutions 1754 and 1783.

The UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1783 on 31 October, which renewed the mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara until 30 April 2008. The resolution also calls upon the parties to continue negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith.

The first two rounds of these negotiations took place in Manhasset, New York on 19-20 June and 10-11 August. The UN has not yet announced dates for a third round of negotiations.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Flexible Working: Parents

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to ensure that the case for extending the right to request flexible working to parents with older children is kept under review; and whether he will set a deadline for a review period. [162041]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

On 6 November 2007, the Prime Minister announced that the Government have decided to extend the right to request flexible working to parents of older children. At the same time, he announced that he had asked Ms Imelda Walsh, Director of Human Relations at J Sainsbury plc, to conduct a review to consider where the age cut-off for older children should be set. Ms Walsh will make recommendations to the Secretary of State in the spring of 2008.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people on benefits had been in receipt of benefits continuously for over 12 months in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* active and *(b)* inactive benefits. [162674]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Working age claimants of active or inactive benefits with a duration of over 12 months in Great Britain, as at February each year

February	*Active benefits*[1]	*Inactive benefits*[2]
1997	625,550	3,304,300
1998	355,040	3,214,100
1999	313,420	3,200,900
2000	254,555	3,076,950
2001	196,625	3,122,230
2002	154,985	3,142,220
2003	136,710	3,160,880
2004	133,930	3,164,430
2005	118,830	3,134,270
2006	131,440	3,088,770
2007	153,305	3,035,020

[1] 'Active benefits' means jobseeker's allowance.
[2] 'Inactive benefits' means working age claimants of income support (income support claimants include: lone parents; sick and disabled; carers; and others), incapacity benefit (including national insurance credits only cases), and severe disablement allowance.
Notes:
1. Inactive benefits caseloads 1997 to 1999 figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and for 2000 onwards are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Inactive benefits caseloads for 1997 to 1999 have been uprated by applying 5 per cent. proportions to 100 per cent. WPLS data.
3. Active benefit caseloads are rounded to the nearest five.
Sources:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample, February 1997 to 1999;
Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100 per cent. data, February 2000 onwards; and
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems

Winter Fuel Payments: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of eligible pensioners in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* the East of England claimed the winter fuel allowance in each of the last five years. [162593]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available. We can only assess eligibility for those people who are in contact with the Department and whose circumstances are known. The vast majority of winter fuel payments are made automatically without the need to claim, but those people whose circumstances we are not already aware of, for instance because they are not on state pension or other benefits administered by DWP, would need to make a claim so that their eligibility can be assessed.

The following table shows the number of winter fuel payments made to people in Suffolk and the East of England in each of the last five years.

	Payments made	
	Suffolk	*East of England*
2002-03	153,000	1,110,690
2003-04	155,730	1,128,200
2004-05	155,730	1,128,650
2005-06	158,630	1,145,550
2006-07	162,640	1,171,170

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Government office regions and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent. data

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing: Planning Permission

Sir Malcolm Rifkind: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what standards will be applied to development rights for single family dwellings in *(a)* conservation areas and densely built-up urban areas and *(b)* modern, low density suburban areas; [163409]

(2) whether single family dwellings in conservation areas will be exempted from the change in the development rights as set out in Changes to Permitted Development, Consultation Paper 2: Permitted Development Rights for Householders. [163410]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department is considering the responses to the consultation paper on permitted development rights for householders, including the response from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea which addresses the issue of permitted development rights for houses in conservation areas. The Government will announce its decision on this issue soon.

Housing: Prices

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the change has been in average house prices in *(a)* east Worthing and Shoreham, *(b)* West Sussex and *(c)* England over the last 10 years. [161913]

Mr. Iain Wright: The average house prices in West Sussex and England in 1997 and 2006 are given in the following table together with the percentage change over that period. Data at the east Worthing and Shoreham level is unavailable.

Mean house price, England—1997-2006

	1997	*2006*	*£ change*	*Percentage change*
West Sussex	90,314	239,863	149,548	266
England	79,482	206,715	127,233	260

Source:
HM Land Registry

Housing: Standards

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made with the technical committee for the development of the Standard Assessment Procedure for homes announced in July; if she will publish the timetable of the three meetings of this committee due to be convened; and whether she expects to receive the committee's recommendations by January 2008. [162667]

Mr. Iain Wright: Good progress has been made. Two meetings with the Construction Products Association and the House Builders Federation have taken place. Industry feedback has been obtained and a list of issues compiled for consideration in the development of the Standard Assessment Procedure for the energy rating of homes. This list is under review. Further meetings will be convened as required and I expect to receive a report in early 2008.

Housing: Waiting Lists

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were on the housing waiting list for *(a)* each local authority and *(b)* social landlords in each local authority area in (i) 1997, (ii) 2002 and (iii) 2007. [163332]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of households on the waiting list for social housing in each local authority each year since 1997, as at 1 April each year, is published on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/144458.

Information as to whether a specific local authority area operates a common housing register is also provided. Figures for 2007 are not currently available. The link for this table is as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/144458.

Communities and Local Government does not collect information on people or households on individual registered social landlords (RSL) waiting lists. However, where the local authority maintains a common housing register with RSLs in their district, the list will also include households placed on the list by RSLs.

Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The size of the waiting list is not necessarily an indicator of absolute need, it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list before they need or want to move house.

New Towns: Planning Permission

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the applications for new town developments are from; and what the timetable is for the selection of the 10 candidate sites. [163939]

Mr. Iain Wright: As the Prime Minister told the House on 6 November we have received over 50 expressions of interest in respect of eco-towns. These have come from both local authorities and developers, and will be considered in a cross-government strategic review. The intention is then to announce the selected schemes in February 2008. We expect that there will be up to five eco-towns by 2016 and 10 by 2020.

I regret that I am not able to divulge the identities of those applying for eco-towns in advance of the completion of the process to assess the expressions of interest that have been received. This would have the potential to be detrimental to the Department's interests in the award of funding and obtaining best value, as well as to the commercial interests of those applicants not selected.

Planning

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers the Planning Inspectorate has to consider applications which the local planning authority has deemed invalid; under which regulations this power exists; and if she will make a statement. [163105]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Court of Appeal held in Regina *v.* Bath and North East Somerset district council 1999 that a determination of invalidity by the local planning authority does not exclude the right of appeal to the Secretary of State on the question of validity. The court reached its decision on the basis of a purposive construction of statutory provisions, in particular section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and section 20 of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

When considering validity of an appeal, the Planning Inspectorate, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, must take full account of the statutory requirements under the Town and Country Planning (Applications) Regulations 1988 and those within the General Development Procedure Order 1995.

Planning: Appeals

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many appeals were lodged with the Planning Inspectorate in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006; and how many Planning Inspectorate site visits were outstanding (i) three months, (ii) six months, (iii) nine months and (iv) 12 months after the date an appeal had been lodged in each of these years. [162039]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the numbers of planning appeals lodged (received) and determined by the Planning Inspectorate in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006, where a site visit was carried out. The table also shows the proportion of appeals where site visits had been carried out and the numbers outstanding and waiting for a site visit (i) three months, (ii) six months, (iii) nine months and (iv) 12 months after the date the appeal had been lodged in each of the three years.

Planning appeals (England) received and numbers of site visits carried out

	(a) 2004		*(b) 2005*		*(c) 2006*	
Period	*Site visits carried out*	*Number outstanding*	*Site visits carried out*	*Number outstanding*	*Site visits carried out*	*Number outstanding*
(i) Up to 3 months after appeal receipt date	117	17,669	5,044	10,285	1,204	15,966
(ii) Up to 6 months after appeal receipt date	9,633	8,153	14,905	424	15,990	1,210
(iii) Up to 9 months after appeal receipt date	17,625	161	15,172	157	17,084	116
(iv) Up to 12 months after appeal receipt date	17,720	66	15,252	77	17,174	26
Total numbers of appeals received (lodged)	17,786		15,329		17,200	

Repairs and Maintenance: Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will increase funding for *(a)* management and maintenance allowances and *(b)* major repairs allowances. [162017]

Mr. Iain Wright: Management and maintenance allowances and the major repairs allowance inside the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy system will be announced when the Department consults on the HRA subsidy determination for 2008-09. Consultation is imminent and it would be premature to make any announcement at this point.

Sand: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the ability of Lancashire county council to meet its quota for extracted sand for the period 2001 to 2016. [162371]

Mr. Iain Wright: In relation to Lancashire county council's quota for extracted sand, as set out in its sub-regional apportionment of the Aggregates Guidelines 2001 to 2016, plan making and planning policy delivery is devolved to the appropriate regional or local planning body. The agreed sub-regional apportionment, including the ability of a Mineral Planning Authority (Lancashire) to meet it, will be tested during the development plan preparation and scrutiny process by Government Office North West; and subsequently by an independent planning inspector.

Travelling People

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact of itinerant Traveller settlements on local communities; and if she will make a statement. [162024]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government recognise the problems that unauthorised encampments (where Gypsies and Travellers camp on land they do not own) can cause for both the settled community and Gypsies and Travellers themselves. Increased authorised site provision, coupled with effective use of enforcement powers is vital to addressing these problems. The Government have established a new framework to increase authorised site provision, and provided additional resources to support the framework and is

working with the Local Government Association and Improvement and Development Agency to assist local authorities and others to use enforcement powers more effectively.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many itinerant Travellers there were in England in each of the last five years. [162027]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government publishes data on the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on authorised public and private sites, and unauthorised encampments and developments twice yearly. Copies of the latest publication 'Count of Gypsy Caravans on 18 January 2007: Last Five Counts' is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1153575.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the accommodation needs for Gypsies and Travellers in *(a)* England and *(b)* Devon. [162330]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities are required to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in their areas in the same way as they are required to assess the accommodation needs of all of the communities in their area.. Regional Assemblies are using these assessments to determine in regional spatial strategies how many pitches should be provided across the region and in each local planning authority area. These assessments are now under way in all local authorities in England, and the large majority are complete. Councils in Devon published the final report of their assessment in early 2007, and it is available on East Devon district council's website at:

www.eastdevon.gov.uk/content/final_report_devon_wide_gypsy_and_traveller_housing_needs_assessment.pdf

The first detailed proposals were submitted to the South West Regional Assembly in March 2007.

West Northamptonshire Development Corporation: Regulation

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers the Government have to regulate the activities of the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation; and what regulatory mechanisms are in place. [162264]

Mr. Iain Wright: West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (WNDC) is an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Communities and Local Government. As such the broad framework within which it operates is set out in its management statement and associated financial memorandum as required by Cabinet Office guidance.

The management statement includes information on the aims, objectives and targets of WNDC and provides for performance to be monitored through the Corporate Plan, Business Plan and Annual Plan Targets. WNDC's detailed financial framework and funding arrangements including conditions attached to receipt of grant in aid, financial delegation and reporting requirements are set out in the financial memorandum.

DEFENCE

Hydrographic Office

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the recent decision to keep the UK Hydrographic Office at Taunton on the ongoing review of the Office's structure and ownership. [161927]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) is a trading fund within the Ministry of Defence. In February 2007, we announced that we would carry out a review of the structural and ownership options for UKHO. This is due to report at the end of the year.

As the review work matured and the options were defined in more detail, it became clear that the decision on UKHO's future status was independent from the decision on its future location. As a result we were able to take forward the site investment appraisal.

In order to end the uncertainty facing UKHO's staff, we sought to announce the results of this appraisal as quickly as possible. The decision to keep the UKHO in Taunton was taken on value for money grounds.

1918 Armistice: Anniversaries

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans are being made to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Armistice of 1918 next November; and if he will make a statement. [162378]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* There are currently no plans for the Department to commemorate specifically the 90th anniversary of the end of the first world war but we are keeping this under review. While not denying the importance of any milestone related to the great war, our priority is to arrange commemorations which provide living veterans with an opportunity to remember their experiences on significant anniversaries which are generally the 25th, 50th and 60th. In addition, we also mark the centennials of major conflicts that have a central place in the national memory and this will be the case for the first world war in 2018.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Defence, announced, on 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 6WS, our plans for a major national event to mark the passing of the first world war generation some months after the death of the last known veteran resident in the UK. The overall aim will be for a reverential national event that is both commemorative and educational.

While the Department is not planning specific commemorations for the 90th anniversary, we will of course provide support where possible to veterans' associations or other organisations that may be planning their own events.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times *(a)* less-than-lethal and *(b)* non-lethal weapons have been used in (i) Afghanistan and (ii) Iraq in each year since 2001. [162566]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Records indicate that no baton rounds have been used in Afghanistan since July 2006. There are no centrally-held records prior to that date, but we believe it is highly unlikely that any baton rounds would have been used by UK forces in Afghanistan between 2001 and July 2006.

Records indicate that around 70 baton rounds were used in Iraq in 2004, 1,520 in 2005, 1,070 in 2006 and 200 in 2007. There are no centrally-held records for the period prior to 2004, although records suggest that no baton rounds were used during the initial combat phase of the operation. In addition, records indicate that three anti-riot CS grenades were used in Iraq in 2005 and 10 in 2006. None were used in 2004 or, to date, in 2007.

Armed Forces: Compensation

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many successful applicants under the armed forces compensation scheme there were in each tariff in each year since 2005. [162509]

Derek Twigg: The number of awards made under the armed forces compensation scheme in each year since 2005 is shown in the following table. The armed forces and reserve forces compensation scheme (AFCS) came into force on 6 April 2005 to pay compensation for injury, illness or death caused by Service on or after that date.

Awards made under the armed forces compensation scheme in each financial year, by tariff level:

Awards[1, 2, 3]

Tariff level	*April 2005 to March 2006*	*April 2006 to March 2007*	*April 2007 to September 2007*
1	—	—	—
2	—	*	*
3	—	*	5
4	—	5	*
5	—	5	*
6	—	10	5
7	—	*	—
8	—	*	*
9	—	—	*
10	*	*	—
11	*	20	5
12	25	140	100
13	25	155	100
14	25	150	105
15	10	80	35
Total	90	580	370

[1] Where more than one condition is claimed for, the table shows the highest tariff level that a claimant has been awarded for a single condition.

[2] Data have been rounded to the nearest 5. "—" refers to a value of zero, while "*" refers to a negligible value (greater than zero, but less than five). Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

[3] Under the AFCS, individuals have up to 5 years in which to make a claim. The figures shown in the table reflect the year in which the claim was decided, not necessarily the year in which the injury occurred.

Armed Forces: Courts

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who controls and operates 2 Providence Court; how many *(a)* US Army personnel, *(b)* US Navy personnel, *(c)* US Marines personnel, *(d)* US Air Force personnel, *(e)* US civilians and *(f)* US contractors are working there; and if he will make a statement. [162486]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The United States Air Force 501st Combat Support Wing at RAF Alconbury has administrative responsibility for 2 Providence Court. Control of the personnel based there is the responsibility of their individual chains of command.

There are no US army, navy, marine or air force personnel working at 2 Providence Court. There are 10 US civilians and seven US contractors working there.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the expenditure of his Department has been on payments to the Priory Group for mental health treatment of service personnel in each year since 2003; [162513]

(2) how many service personnel have received mental health treatment from the Priory Group in each year since 2003. [162533]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In-patient care for service personnel with mental health problems is provided in specialised psychiatric units under a contract with the Priory Group. An interim arrangement was signed with the Priory Group commencing in December 2003. The full contract, whereby the Priory Group became the default provider of in-patient mental health provision, commenced on 1 April 2004.

The data requested, up until 30 September 2007, can be found in the following table:

	Number of patients treated	*Contract value (£ million)*
1 December 2003 to 31 March 2004	58	0.4
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	321	4.2
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	351	4.5
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	305	3.4
1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007	160	1.9

These figures take into account the cost of assessing patients as well as any treatment programmes provided; the individual care needs of each patient will vary depending on their particular medical circumstances.

The Priory contract replaced the care provided by MOD's Duchess of Kent Psychiatric Hospital at Catterick, whose costs in its final year of operation were some £10 million.

Armed Forces: Secondment

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which staff from his Department of each grade are on secondment to EU military bodies. [163396]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: 18 military personnel are currently on secondment from the UK Ministry of Defence to the EU military staff (EUMS). This figure comprises a Lieutenant General, currently the Director-General of the EUMS, 11 officers at Lieutenant-Colonel or equivalent rank, one officer at the rank of army captain or equivalent and five non-commissioned officers.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what options his Department is considering for Package Two of the Defence Training Review Rationalisation Programme. [162514]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, (Derek Twigg) stated in his written ministerial statement on 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 14-15WS, we will continue to consider a range of options for Package 2. These options will vary from adaptations to Metrix' original PFI proposals, through to a full conventional procurement. This work to develop an affordable project will continue to focus on how best to improve our accommodation and training, and meet our commitments following the review to improve the support, welfare and wellbeing of our trainees. An update on the programme will be provided next year when this work has matured.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pairs of cold weather boots were issued to service personnel who were in Afghanistan on 1st October 2007. [162559]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The majority of personnel in Afghanistan on 1 October were due to leave theatre during that month having served during the hot summer months. Consequently they were not equipped with cold weather boots.

All personnel who had recently deployed with the intention of remaining in theatre during the winter were issued with a pair of cold weather boots prior to deployment. Additional stocks of cold weather boots are also held in theatre to cover any personnel who required the issue of boots or replacements in theatre.

1 October 2007 fell during the Relief in Place between 12 Mechanised Brigade and 52 Infantry Brigade with the number of personnel in theatre fluctuating on a daily basis, and therefore the exact number cannot be provided without disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what items of cold weather clothing will be issued to the next roulement of British service personnel in Afghanistan; and what quantity of each item will be supplied. [162560]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All units deploying on operations are entitled to draw upon a vast range of clothing prior to their deployment, including cold weather supplements as appropriate. These have already been made available to the units who deployed to Afghanistan in October. In addition, substantial stocks of cold weather clothing have been sent to both Iraq and Afghanistan. The following items are available as supplementary cold weather clothing:

Cold Weather Boots
Thermal Jacket
Thermal Trousers
Extreme Cold Weather Hat
Extreme Cold Weather Wristlets
Extreme Cold Weather Mitten Inners
Extreme Cold Weather Mitten Outers
Extreme Cold Weather Socks
Face Mask
Windproof Desert Trousers
Moisture Vapour Permeable Desert Jacket
Moisture Vapour Permeable Desert Trousers

The actual quantity of each item issued to a particular operation or exercise is not available. Moreover, some personnel already have elements of specialist equipment due to previous tours or exercises.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the brand and type is of the standard issue of boots given to service personnel before going on operations in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [162570]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since July 2007, in both Theatres, the Meindl Desert Fox Combat Boot is issued as standard. Magnum Light Weight Urban Patrolling Boots are also available as necessary for certain tasks. Pro-Boot or Prabus cold weather boots are issued as required. Additionally, where they are needed, Magnum Safety Boots are also available.

Cambrian Patrol

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will put in place measures to commemorate the 50th anniversary in 2009 of the first training exercise now known as the Ex Cambrian Patrol; [162149]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Ex Cambrian Patrol Army training programme for *(a)* British participants and *(b)* participants from overseas countries; and if he will make a statement; [162150]

(3) if he will ensure that sufficient resources are made available to enable the Ex Cambrian Patrol Army training event to take place in 2008. [162151]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Exercise Cambrian Patrol is normally run each year in mid Wales and is based on a long-range patrol within a realistic tactical scenario. It tests military skills, with a focus on leadership, teamwork, physical fitness and achieving the mission. It attracts considerable interest and participation from both the UK and other nations, who regard it as a valuable training opportunity.

We recognise that participation in competitions is important to members of the armed forces. Based on current plans, Cambrian Patrol will not take place in 2008, although similarly challenging training opportunities will be available.

There are currently no plans to hold any commemorative events to mark the 50th anniversary of the exercise which is scheduled to take place in 2009.

Chad: EC Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what NATO assets will be used for the EU mission to Chad and the Central African Republic under the *(a)* 2003 Berlin Plus Arrangements and *(b)* 2002 NATO-EU Declaration on European Security and Defence Policy; and if he will make a statement. [162634]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no plans to use NATO assets for the forthcoming ESDP mission to Chad and the Central African Republic.

Under the terms of the 2002 NATO-EU Declaration on ESDP the EU has briefed non-EU European members of NATO on the forthcoming mission.

Consolidated Fund

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what on a near cash basis was the value of *(a)* request for resources one and *(b)* request for resources two (i) operating income and (ii) non-operating income that was (A) appropriated-in-aid and (B) paid to the Consolidated Fund in financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07; [162529]

(2) what the subheads are of the *(a)* operating appropriations-in-aid and *(b)* non-operating appropriations-in-aid outturn for each of his Department's Request for Resources in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms in each year from 2001-02 to 2006-07. [162658]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the then Secretary of State for Defence gave on 13 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1581-82W; the answers my predecessor gave on 7 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1636-42W and 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1283-85W; and the answer I gave on 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1889-93W, which broke down the Defence budget by near- and non-cash. All operating income and non operating income are near-cash. Payments to the consolidated funds can be found in the Ministry of Defence annual report and accounts.

Defence: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many improvised explosive device jammers have been purchased by his Department in each year since 2003. [162510]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I can confirm that the MOD has the capability to counter radio controlled improvised explosive devices and that it is being used in theatres of operation. I am withholding details about the numbers of such equipment purchased as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pieces of surveillance and target acquisition equipment of each type there were in the armed forces in each year since 1997. [162652]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Expenditure

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the central supply Government estimates 2007-08: supplementary budget information, if he will break down his Department's supplementary budget table in *(a)* near cash and *(b)* non-cash terms. [161881]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department does not hold this information in the form requested and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The public expenditure statistical analysis (PESA) publication, however, provides a useful near-cash/non-cash split for departmental expenditure limits.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department spent on office refurbishment and repairs in each year since 1996-97. [162641]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the subheads are of the *(a)* Main Estimate, *(b)* Winter Supplementary Estimate and *(c)* Winter Supplementary Estimate (i) operating appropriations-in-aid and (ii) non-operating appropriations-in-aid provision for each of his Department's Request for Resources in (A) near cash and (B) non-cash terms in each of the financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07; [162651]

(2) what the subheads are of the Main Estimate *(a)* operating appropriations-in-aid and *(b)* non-operating appropriations-in-aid provision for each of his Department's Request for Resources in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms in 2007-08. [162663]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All operating income and non-operating income are near cash. Details of the operating and non-operating appropriations-in-aid can be found in the respective published Estimates.

Departmental Property

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much of his Department's land has been sold in the last five years; and what money was received from the sales. [162626]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Details of defence land sold in the last five financial years are:

Financial year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Gross accrued receipts in £ million	278	207	212	258	394
Sites sold	165	150	133	122	94
Total area in hectares	1,144	814	1,387	1,860	1,594

The disposal figures shown include receipts from the release of overseas property.

HMS Illustrious

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of time *(a)* HMS Illustrious and *(b)* HMS Ark Royal were (i) on operations and (ii) undergoing maintenance in each year since 1997. [162637]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to my letter of 5 November 2007, (D/Min (AF)/BA PQ03726T/LN), a copy of which was placed in the Library of the House.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many improvised explosive device jammers are *(a)* installed and *(b)* not installed in vehicles in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan in every year since 2003. [162531]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I can confirm that equipment to counter radio controlled improvised explosive devices is installed in vehicles used in operational theatres. I am withholding details of the numbers or locations of vehicles that are so equipped as disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pieces of surveillance and target acquisition equipment are in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; and where each is located. [162662]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many joint strike fighters will be used for *(a)* system development and demonstration, *(b)* evaluation, *(c)* instructor training and *(d)* operational conversion unit. [163036]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Current plans are that 19 joint strike fighters will be used for the system development and demonstration (SDD) for JSF. The UK share for these are covered by our fixed $2 billion contribution to SDD. The UK's contribution to the joint operational test and evaluation of JSF with the US services is two aircraft. Instructor training will be conducted through a combination of simulator training and use of operational conversion unit aircraft and the UK operational conversion unit will build over time to 16 aircraft. Other than the SDD aircraft the UK has made no commitments to purchase aircraft and we will continue to monitor requirements as the programme matures.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* C-17 Globemaster, *(b)* C-130K Hercules, *(c)* C-130J Hercules, *(d)* Tristar and *(e)* VC-10 aircraft are (i) in service with the RAF and (ii) fit for purpose. [162572]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 509W.

The numbers of C-130J, C-130K, VC10, Tristar and C-17 fit for purpose for the financial year to 31 October 2007 are provided in the following table:

Aircraft type	Numbers of aircraft fit for purpose (average for financial year to 31 October 2007[1])
C-130J	16
C-130K	10
VC10	8
Tristar	5
C-17	3

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Aircraft that are available for immediate deployment are fit for purpose; they are capable of undertaking the required task on a given day. Aircraft are not available for tasking if they are undergoing scheduled maintenance, modification programmes or any other unforeseen rectification work that can arise on a day to day basis. The figures do not reflect the fact that an aircraft assessed as not fit for purpose may be returned to the front line at very short notice to meet the operational need.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total *(a)* planned and *(b)* actual usage hours for the (i) C-17 Globemaster, (ii) C-130K Hercules, (iii) C-130J Hercules, (iv) Tristar and (v) VC-10 aircraft were in each year since 2003. [162573]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The total number of planned and actual hours for the C-17, Hercules (C130J and C130K), Tristar and VC10 aircraft for each of the financial years 2002-03 to 2006-07 are contained in the following table:

Aircraft type	Planned	Actual
2002-03		
C-17	3,000	5,745
C130J/K	37,458	39,871
Tristar	9,561	10,603
VC10	11,550	11,413
2003-04		
C-17	4,000	5,592
C130J/K	37,458	35,173
Tristar	9,561	8,879
VC10	11,550	13,145

Aircraft type	Planned	Actual
2004-05		
C-17	5,800	5,727
C130J/K	34,958	30,640
Tristar	10,561	8,657
VC10	10,550	10,773
2005-06		
C-17	5,800	6,375
C130J/K	34,958	27,906
Tristar	11,191	7,693
VC10	9,920	11,814
2006-07[1]		
C-17	5,800	—
C130J/K	34,958	—
Tristar	11,561	—
VC10	9,550	—

[1] We do not hold confirmed and validated figures for the actual hours flown for the financial year 2006 to 2007.

Military Attachés

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the impact of the redeployment of defence attachés from UK embassies and overseas missions on the level of intelligence gathered. [162033]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The redeployment of defence attachés will have no impact on the ability of the Ministry of Defence to obtain the intelligence we require.

Red Arrows: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what spending plans are being made for the Red Arrows from 2010 to 2012. [163333]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: None of the budgets within the Department for financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12 have been determined. Decisions on this will be taken at the end of the current planning round in spring 2008.

Warships

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the highest gapped unit percentage was for a Royal Navy vessel in each of the last 12 months; [162831]

(2) what the highest gapped unit percentage was for a Royal Navy vessel in each year since 1997. [162832]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Detailed statistics of manpower gapping for Royal Navy ships are not held centrally. Manning levels of ships are adjusted according to their task. They routinely operate gapped posts as a result of personnel being ashore for training, medical, or compassionate reasons, or assigned to higher priority tasking elsewhere.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Exports: Food

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the value of British food and drink exports to India in the last year for which figures are available. [163655]

Mr. Thomas: HMRC overseas trade statistics record UK exports to India of food, live animals and beverages worth £33.9 million in 2006.

Motor Sports

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he last met *(a)* the board of Motorsport Development UK and *(b)* other representatives of the British motor sports industry. [163838]

Mr. Timms: There have not been any recent meetings with BERR Ministers, but I will be meeting with the chairman of Motorsport Development UK on 10 December.

Motorsport Development UK

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what motorsport experience was required for members of the board of Motorsport Development UK in each of the last five years. [163791]

Mr. Timms: Motorsport Development UK's advisory board consists of senior people and academics with broad business based experience including, but not limited to: a track record in motorsport (both two and four wheel); an understanding of economic issues affecting the sector; good network of contacts within the motorsport and/or related industries; analytical and communication skills, ability to work as part of a diverse team; and sound judgement and objectivity, drive and determination.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on the *(a)* role, *(b)* work and *(c)* effectiveness of Motorsport Development UK. [163837]

Mr. Timms: Since the launch of Motorsport Development UK in 2003, there have been a number of meetings with Government Ministers and senior officials—most recently with Richard Caborn in March 2007. I will be meeting with the chairman, Bob Gilbert, on 10 December.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which international exhibitions have been attended by representatives of Motorsport Development UK; at which such exhibitions the organisation maintained a stand; and how much was spent on such activities in each of the last three years. [163923]

Mr. Timms: Motorsport Development UK has not actively participated in, or directly funded, any overseas international exhibition within the past three years.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what priorities and objectives he has set for Motorsport Development UK; and what expenditure it has incurred in each of the last three years, broken down by main budget heading. [163927]

Mr. Timms: Following the recommendations of the Motorsport Competitiveness Panel in 2003, Motorsport Development UK has supported a number of programmes to strengthen the sport and its related industry, the main headings of which are as follows:

	£ million
Motorsport Academy	3.1
Learning Grid	3.5
Energy Efficient Motorsport	1.7
Business Development	1.0
Widening Participation	0.8

The funding indicated has been received from a number of sources including BERR and the four regional development agencies, which make up the bulk of 'Motorsport Valley'—EMDA, AWM, EEDA and SEEDA. The funding relates to monies expended or contractually committed.

Post Offices

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has *(a)* made and *(b)* evaluated of the potential effects on remaining post offices as a result of the Post Office Ltd. closure programme; and if he will make a statement. [163780]

Mr. McFadden: It is expected that business migrating from offices which close will improve the viability of remaining post offices. Post Office Ltd's local decisions will need to reflect the Government's aim of supporting a national network of post offices and to comply with the access criteria requirements set by Government.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans his Department has to provide extra capacity at post offices that act as alternative branches under Post Office Ltd. closure programme; and if he will make a statement. [163781]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations his Department has made to Post Office Ltd. on taking account of future population and demographic projections in plans for post office closures; and if he will make a statement. [163783]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have made a requirement on Post Office Ltd to meet a number of minimum access criteria, and in applying the criteria Post Office Ltd will be required to consider local demographics.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if his Department will make representations to Post Office Ltd. on taking into account deprivation at local government ward level when considering post office closures; and if he will make a statement. [163784]

Mr. McFadden: The Government recognise the important social and economic role of the network. The requirement on Post Office Ltd. to meet a number of minimum access criteria includes additional protections for deprived urban areas and remote rural communities, to ensure people have reasonable access across the whole country.

Post Offices: Closures

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effects of proposed post office closures on the local communities in London where post offices have been proposed for closure; and if he will make a statement. [162551]

Mr. McFadden: It is not possible to say which offices will close until Post Office Ltd has drawn up implementation plans and local consultations have taken place. However when developing detailed area plans with input from Postwatch, local authorities and sub-postmasters, Post Office Ltd will take into account the need to meet the national access criteria as well as local geography and factors such as availability of public transport, alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on local communities.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the annual savings are that are anticipated to accrue to the Post Office from those post offices so far proposed for closure, broken down by *(a)* each post office area and *(b)* each proposed closure. [163839]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Post Offices: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many transactions over post office counters in the city of York there were in each of the last five years; what the value was of each; how much the Post Office charges for each payment made to local authorities over post office counters; and which local authorities *(a)* pay the charge in whole, *(b)* pay part of the charge on behalf

of the customer and *(c)* require the customer to pay the charge in full. [163933]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many adults *(a)* enrolled in adult and community learning programmes and *(b)* participated in further education in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [162582]

Mr. Lammy: Figures for those participating in adult and community learning (ACL) programmes and further education (FE) can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The following table shows the number of LSC funded adult learners in Suffolk local LSC area on ACL programmes since 2003/04 and in FE since 2002/03. The LSC's FE ILR was collated for the first time at local LSC level in 2002/03 and figures are given from that time. ACL returns do not go back earlier than 2003/04 with the same degree of accuracy.

Number of adult learners in ACL and FE in Suffolk local LSC area

	ACL	*FE*
2002/03	—	28,163
2003/04	16,115	30,756
2004/05	14,855	27,904
2005/06	13,705	22,684

Apprentices

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of the employers signed up to the apprenticeship programme are engaged in the provision of training as their main economic activity. [162054]

Mr. Lammy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 286W.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will place in the Library a breakdown of his Department's efficiency savings in relation to its Spending Review 2004 (SR04) targets, including *(a)* the efficiency projects in the Department, *(b)* the date on which each of these projects was initiated and *(c)* how much was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [162318]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills came into existence in 2007, with its predecessors being parts of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department for Education and Skills. As a result, the efficiency savings programmes for SR04 were initiated by these two Departments. An answer describing the full programmes for each has been prepared in response to your inquiry by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Departmental Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff are presently seconded to his Department from outside Government, broken down by the *(a)* outside body from which they have been seconded and *(b)* length of secondment. [162284]

Mr. Lammy: A total of 11 staff are seconded to my Department from a range of organisations as listed in the following table. The secondments are normally for a period of up to two years.

Organisation	*Number of secondees*
Hertfordshire County Council	1
BBC	1
Edexcel	1
Leeds Metropolitan University	1
STFC	3
RAL	1
Met Office	1
NERC	1
One North East	1

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many fixed penalty tickets have been incurred by vehicles within the purview of his Department for the last year for which figures are available; and what their total cost was. [162283]

Mr. Lammy: No fixed penalty tickets have been incurred by vehicles within the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Children, Schools and Families formally known as the Department for Education and Skills.

European University Institute

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what involvement his Department has with the work of the European University Institute; and if he will make a statement. [161887]

Bill Rammell: Officials from my Department act as members of the High Council (governing body) of the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence and of its budgetary committee. These bodies generally meet twice each year. The presidency of the EUI rotates on an annual basis and from April 2008 the UK will chair these meetings.

Further Education Reporting and Performance Board

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make a statement on the work of the Further Education Reporting and Performance Board. [161886]

Bill Rammell: The Further Education Reform and Performance Board is part of the programme architecture established to manage the Skills PSA. It is chaired by DIUS and has representatives from the sector including DCSF and our main delivery partners the LSC, Association of Colleges, Ofsted, Association of Learning Providers, Quality Improvement Agency, Sixth Form College Forum, Local Government Association, Lifelong Learning UK and the 157 group. The board's role is assuring the readiness to respond to key priorities for the FE supply side, taking account of views from across the sector. It reports into the over arching Skills PSA board along with: HE Strategic Delivery and Financial Support, Leitch Implementation and Skills Strategy, Vocational Qualifications Reform, Apprenticeships and Communications and Customer Insight.

Galileo

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had with industry on the criteria used to appraise UK involvement with the Galileo system; and if he will make a statement. [163479]

Ian Pearson: Since my appointment I have had a number of meetings and discussions with industry on UK space activities. These have covered a range of space issues including Galileo. Additionally, there are regular discussions between my officials and UK industry both formally through the British National Space Centre's (BNSC) Telecommunications and Navigation Advisory Board and informally with individual companies and industry organisations such as UKSpace.

Galileo: Performance Standards

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what criteria he will use to assess the performance of the Galileo system. [163482]

Ian Pearson: Galileo has been jointly developed by the European Union and the European Space Agency (ESA). The main characteristics of the system were agreed by the Council of European Transport Ministers at its meeting on 9-10 December 2004. ESA is responsible for the technical development of the system and is currently managing the In-Orbit Validation (IOV) phase of the programme. It is this phase which is intended to demonstrate the potential of the system to provide services and benefits to the UK, Europe and globally.

Higher Education: Eastern Region

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of young people from *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk undertook (i) degrees and (ii) other advanced courses at university in each of the last five years. [162583]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the following table. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

English domiciled young[1] entrants to higher education institutions by domicile and level of study—UK higher education institutions[2], academic years 2001/02 to 2005/06

		Domicile		
		Country	Government office region	Local authority
Level of study	Academic year	England	East	Suffolk
First degree	2001/02	194,965	19,950	2,220
	2002/03	201,835	20,365	2,295
	2003/04	203,310	22,000	2,220
	2004/05	206,925	21,210	2,345
	2005/06	223,905	23,110	2,590
Other undergraduate	2001/02	28,575	2,975	275
	2002/03	26,260	2,835	270
	2003/04	25,195	2,690	250
	2004/05	27,345	3,095	265
	2005/06	28,435	2,880	255

[1] Young refers to undergraduates aged 20 and under.
[2] Excludes the Open University.
Note:
The figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population basis and are rounded to the nearest five. They cover students on all modes of study.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

The Government's main measure of participation in Higher Education is the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR). This is the sum of the HE initial participation rates for individual ages between 17 and 30 inclusive. It covers English-domiciled first time entrants to HE courses, which are expected to last for at least six months, at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh Further Education Colleges, and who remain on their course for at least six months. The HEIPR is not available for smaller areas.

Figures for the young 17 to 20 age group are shown in the following table:

Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17 to 20-year-olds (HEIPR20)

	HEIPR20 (percentage)		Number of initial participants
2001/02	33	(32.5)	194,000
2002/03	33	(32.7)	201,000
2003/04	32	(31.8)	204,000
2004/05	32	(32.1)	209,000
2005/06	34	(34.0)	226,000

Note:
The HEIPR is usually published to the nearest integer, but the figures are included to one decimal place to inform comparisons over time. Numbers are quoted to the nearest 1,000.
Source:
"Participation Rates in Higher Education: Academic Years 1999/2000—2005/06 (Provisional)", published by DfES

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the impact that the phasing out of funding for students taking equivalent or lower qualifications at university from 2008-09 will have on the delivery of the objectives of the Leitch review of skills; [162627]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact that phasing out funding for students taking equivalent or lower qualifications at university from 2008-09 will have on institutions with a high proportion of part-time and mature learners; [162712]

(3) which organisations were consulted prior to the decision being made to phase out funding for students taking equivalent or lower qualifications at university from 2008-09; and when each was consulted. [162714]

Bill Rammell: We are not cutting funding from higher education. We took this decision as part of the comprehensive spending review in order to target resources on our top priorities and the country's long term needs. While the policy has been set, we have asked HEFCE to consult widely on how it should be implemented. Our policy not only responds to the challenge in the Leitch report to increase the proportion of the work force with higher level skills from under 30 per cent. now to over 40 per cent. by 2020 but is also fairer to both taxpayers and students who have not yet entered higher education. Many of those in the work force without higher level skills may be mature learners who wish to study part-time. The overall effect of these changes on the income of individual institutions will depend on how successful they are in attracting students who meet our priorities. Every institution will have an incentive to maximise its share of the £100 million which will be redistributed through this change.

Higher Education: Mature Students

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time mature students enrolled on a higher education course in each year since 2001; [162118]

(2) how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time students enrolled in higher education courses in each year since 2001. [162120]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The latest available information is shown in the following table. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

UK domiciled enrolments by mode of study, level of study and age—English higher education institutions, academic years 2001/02 to 2005/06

		Postgraduates		Undergraduates	
Academic year	Mode of study	Total	Of which: Mature[1]	Total	Of which: Mature[2]
2001/02	Full-time	86,210	43,570	773,515	307,820
	Part-time	203,640	187,420	458,080	439,765
	Total	289,850	230,985	7,237,595	747,585
2002/03	Full-time	90,595	44,640	803,025	325,205
	Part-time	207,165	190,020	473,675	455,300
	Total	297,760	234,665	7,276,700	780,505
2003/04	Full-time	93,940	46,120	823,145	335,725
	Part-time	212,850	193,955	484,020	464,290
	Total	306,785	240,075	7,307,760	800,020
2004/05	Full-time	93,220	45,985	838,145	341,855
	Part-time	213,865	194,100	482,300	460,795
	Total	307,085	240,085	7,320,445	802,645
2005/06	Full-time	96,845	48,935	865,560	346,655
	Part-time	213,920	194,395	484,305	460,125
	Total	310,765	243,330	7,349,865	806,785

[1] Mature postgraduates are 25 and over.
[2] Mature undergraduates are 21 and over.
Note:
The figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population basis and are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Science and Innovation Policies of Government Review

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much of the £1 billion announced on the publication of the conclusions of the Sainsbury Review, to be spent on business innovation and technology development, is additional resources not previously *(a)* announced and *(b)* allocated. [163163]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The Technology Strategy Board will develop and lead a strategic programme worth £1 billion over the next three years (the upcoming CSR period), in partnership with the Research Councils and the regional development agencies (RDA). This includes £180 million which will be earmarked by the RDAs and £120 million by the research councils to spend jointly on activities with the TSB. The £1 billion is all new money not previously announced or allocated.

Space Systems

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills for what reasons single source procurement of space systems is used; and what the evidential basis is for this providing best value. [163480]

Ian Pearson: The UK Government have not independently procured any space systems for many years and have no current plans to do so. Departments like the MOD procure space enabled services on a regular basis, and this can involve the purchase of hardware, especially in the ground segment (e.g.

MilSatCom handsets). In all cases, standard Government procurement policies are followed to ensure value for money.

The UK is a member of the European Space Agency (ESA) which does procure space systems. ESA procurements are undertaken within a geo-return framework, but are subject to affordability within the overall programme subscription and VFM through competition at both prime and sub-prime (sub-system) levels (and sometimes also below this). BNSC provides two delegates to the ESA Industrial Policy Committee which scrutinises and authorises all major procurements.

Student Wastage

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* drop-out and *(b)* failure rate for young people attempting level 3 qualifications was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [161943]

Mr. Lammy: The Learning and Skills Council collect data on learners enrolling on level 3 qualifications in further education (in general further education and tertiary colleges, sixth form colleges and external institutions). Drop-out and failure rates are not calculated, but retention rates and success rates are shown in Table 1 for those aged 16 to 18 studying towards a level 3 qualification with expected end year 2005/06.

Table 1: Success and Retention Rates for 16 to 18-year-olds enrolled on level 3 qualifications (excluding A/AS levels) in colleges, with expected end year 2005/06

Qualification Type	Starts (excluding transfers)	Success rate[1] (percentage)	Retention rate[2] (percentage)
A Level	6,400	78	87
A2	212,600	92	95
AS	414,600	75	88
GNVQ	27,000	70	76
NVQ	9,900	70	81
Other long qualifications	145,200	67	77
Short: 5 to 24 weeks	15,200	77	93
Short: Less than 5 weeks	1,500	84	98

[1] Success rate is calculated as the number of aims achieved as a percentage of starts. [2] Retention rate is calculated as the number completing as a percentage of starts. *Source:* Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record.

Equivalent data for those studying A/AS/A2 levels at school are not available. Student numbers achieving A levels in schools and colleges are reported in the DCSF Achievement and Attainment Tables, but different methodologies and timescales are used. Table 2 shows A level results of students aged 16 to 18 in schools and colleges taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR): GCE/VCE A/AS and Equivalent Examination Results in England (consistent with the Achievement and Attainment Tables data).

Table 2: GCE A level examination results of 16 to 18-year-old[1] students

	Total entries	Ungraded, no award (absent/declined) and pending (percentage)
2005/06	715,072	2.9
2006/07	720,083	2.7

[1] Age at the start of the academic year i.e. 31 August.
Source: GCE/VCE A/AS and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2005/06 and 2006/07.

Students: Finance

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the potential effect of his decision to withdraw Equal and Lower Qualification student funding on the income of *(a)* Birkbeck College and *(b)* the Open University. [163845]

Bill Rammell: We took this decision as part of the comprehensive spending review in order to target resources on our top priorities and the country's long-term needs. Our policy not only responds to the challenge in the Leitch report to increase the proportion of the work force with higher level skills from under 30 per cent. now to over 40 per cent. by 2020 but is also fairer to both taxpayers and students who have not yet entered higher education. The overall effect of these changes on the income of individual institutions will depend on how successful they are in attracting students who meet our priorities. Every institution will have an incentive to maximise its share of the £100 million which will be redistributed through this change and no complete assessment of these changes on any institution can be made until that £100 million has been redistributed.

JUSTICE

Appeals: Asylum

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are available to asylum seekers who have had cases heard by judges *(a)* Illyas Khan and *(b)* J and believe inappropriate considerations were taken into account. [162886]

Bridget Prentice: If a party to an appeal before the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal believes that an Immigration Judge has made an error of law for whatever reason, he or she can apply to the Tribunal for the decision to be reconsidered within the time limits provided by the Procedure Rules. If such an application is late, the appellant must advance good reasons to justify an extension of time.

Arrests: Hunting

Mr. Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted for offences under the Hunting Act 2005, broken down by police force area. [162404]

Maria Eagle: The arrests collection held by my Department provides data on persons arrested only for recorded crime (notifiable offences). Summary offences under the Hunting Act 2004 are not included within this category.

Data on the number of offenders charged are not held by my department; however I can confirm there were three defendants proceeded against under the Hunting Act 2004 in England and Wales, all of whom were found guilty. Of these, two were prosecuted in Thames Valley and one in Merseyside police force area.

Data for 2006 will be available from the 29 November 2007.

Compensation: Lung Diseases

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislative proposals in response to the outcome of Johnston v NEI International Combustion Limited, and related cases, to enable those with pleural plaques to receive compensation; and if he will make a statement. [162720]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to my reply, 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 798W. The House of Lords considered the issues very thoroughly on the basis of all the evidence put before them and reached the unanimous decision that pleural plaques do not constitute actionable or compensatable damage. Having considered the judgment very carefully, the Government have decided that it would not be appropriate to legislate on the issue.

Coroners: Armed Forces

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the dates in chronological order are of the inquests of *(a)* Guardsman Simon Davison, *(b)* Guardsman Daniel Probyn, *(c)* Guardsman Neil Downes, *(d)* Guardsman Daryl Hickey and *(e)* Guardsman David Atherton of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards. [162157]

Bridget Prentice: Guardsman Davison's inquest opened on 8 November in the South Staffordshire coroner's jurisdiction. No dates have yet been fixed for the inquests into the deaths of Guardsmen Probyn, Downes, Hickey and Atherton, who died in Afghanistan between 23 May and 26 July this year. These inquests will be held in the Black Country, the South Manchester, the Birmingham and Solihull and the Manchester city coroners' jurisdictions respectively.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the dates in chronological order are of the inquests of *(a)* Private Chris Gray, *(b)* Lance Corporal George Russell Davey, *(c)* Corporal Darren Bonner, *(d)* Lance Corporal Alex Hawkins, *(e)* Private Tony Rawson, *(f)* Captain David Hicks, *(g)* Private Aaron James McClure, *(h)* Private Robert Graham Foster and *(i)* Private John Thrumble of the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment. [162158]

Bridget Prentice: Lance Corporal Davey's inquest was held on 2 November 2007 in the Greater Suffolk coroner's jurisdiction, and the verdict was accidental death. No dates have yet been fixed for the inquests into the deaths of the other service personnel mentioned in the question who died in Afghanistan between 13 April and 23 August 2007. The inquests into the deaths of Private Chris Gray, Corporal Bonner, Lance Corporal Hawkins and Private Rawson will be held in the Leicester City and South Leicestershire, North London, Greater Norfolk and East London coroners' jurisdictions respectively. The inquests into Captain Hicks and the inquests into Privates McClure, Foster and Thrumble will be held together in the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner's jurisdiction.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the dates in chronological order are of the inquests of *(a)* Private Ben Ford, *(b)* Private Damian Wright, *(c)* Private Johan Botha, *(d)* Sergeant Craig Brelsford, *(e)* Private Brian Tunnicliffe of 2nd Battalion The Mercian Regiment and *(f)* Colour Sergeant Phillip Newman of 4th Battalion The Mercian Regiment. [162159]

Bridget Prentice: No dates have yet been fixed for the inquests into the deaths of these service personnel who died in Afghanistan between 5 and 20 September this year. Their inquests will all be held in the Wiltshire coroner's jurisdiction.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the dates in chronological order are of the inquests of *(a)* Lance Corporal Paul Sandford, *(b)* Drummer Thomas Wright and *(c)* Captain Sean Dolan of the 1st Battalion The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters. [162160]

Bridget Prentice: No dates have yet been fixed for the inquests into the deaths of these service personnel who died in Afghanistan between 6 June and 30 June this year. Their inquests will be heard in the Nottinghamshire, Derby and South Derbyshire and the Cheshire coroners' jurisdictions respectively.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the dates in chronological order are of the inquests of *(a)* Corporal Mike Gilyeat of Royal Military Police, *(b)* Sergeant Dave Wilkinson of 19 Regiment Royal Artillery, *(c)* Sergeant Barry Keen of 14 Signal Regiment, *(d)* Corporal Ivano Violino of 36 Engineer Regiment and *(e)* Major Alexis Roberts of 1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles. [162161]

Bridget Prentice: No dates have yet been fixed for the inquests into the deaths of these service personnel who died in Afghanistan between 30 May and 4 October this year. The inquests into the deaths of Corporal Gilyeat, Sergeant Wilkinson and Major Roberts will be heard in the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner's jurisdiction. Sergeant Keen's and Corporal Violino's inquests will be heard in the Gateshead and South Tyneside and the North West Kent coroners' jurisdictions respectively.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many military inquests have not been completed. [162644]

Bridget Prentice: As of 9 November, 122 military inquests of fatalities from the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq have not yet been completed. Four inquests have been completed since the written ministerial statement published in both Houses on 30 October. Full details of progress with the overseas military inquests are set out in that statement.

Coroners: Heathrow Airport

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many bodies of UK citizens were returned to the UK via Heathrow Airport in each year from 2000 to 2006; and which coroner's jurisdictions received them. [163842]

Bridget Prentice: This information is not held centrally and following inquiries with coroners and international funeral directors I can confirm that this information is not available from other sources. I will write to the hon. Member to explain the reasons for this and place a copy of my letter in the Libraries of the House.

Coroners: London

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many out of England certificates have been signed by the coroner, deputy coroner and assistant deputy coroner in each London jurisdiction in each year from 2000 to 2006. [163841]

Bridget Prentice: This information is not held centrally. I am making inquiries with the coroners concerned and will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible. I will place a copy of my letter in the Libraries of the House.

Crown Courts: Aylesbury

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases Aylesbury Crown Court dealt with in each of the last five years; and from which unitary authority each case came. [162824]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of court cases dealt with by the unitary authority each case came from is not available.

The following table shows the number of cases committed and sent for trial dealt with by Aylesbury Crown Court in each of the last five years by the name of the committing magistrates' court.

Number of trial cases dealt with by Aylesbury Crown Court 2002-06, by committing magistrates court

Name of magistrates court	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*Total*
Milton Keynes	210	166	153	189	240	958
Wycombe and Beaconsfield	93	151	157	143	170	714
Central Buckinghamshire (Aylesbury)	128	95	115	128	134	600
Other	3	0	2	3	1	9
Transfer Certificate[1]	11	2	0	0	0	13
Voluntary Bill[1]	1	0	0	0	0	1

[1] A transfer certificate or voluntary bill do not have a committing magistrates' court.

Custodial Treatment: Children

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children of age *(a)* 10, *(b)* 11, *(c)* 12 and *(d)* 13 were held in custody (i) on remand and (ii) after being convicted of an offence in (A) 2004, (B) 2005 and (C) 2006; and what the average length of detention was in each of those years. [162058]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of young people in custody on remand or under sentence as at 30 June in the three years in question. Young people in this age range are accommodated in either a secure children's home or secure training centre. The data has been supplied by the Youth Justice Board.

	Age 10		*Age 11*		*Age 12*		*Age 13*	
	Sentenced	*Remanded*	*Sentenced*	*Remanded*	*Sentenced*	*Remanded*	*Sentenced*	*Remanded*
2004	0	0	1	0	9	4	43	6
2005	0	0	1	0	10	2	35	6
2006	0	0	0	0	12	1	25	7

The following table shows the average length of detention in days of young people in custody on remand or under sentence as at 30 June in the three years in question, The data has been supplied by the Youth Justice Board.

	Age 10		*Age 11*		*Age 12*		*Age 13*	
	Sentenced	*Remanded*	*Sentenced*	*Remanded*	*Sentenced*	*Remanded*	*Sentenced*	*Remanded*
2004	0	0	264	0	211	34	129	40
2005	0	0	547	0	168	75	164	38
2006	0	0	0	0	130	10	174	26

Custodial Treatment: Military Bases

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government plan to introduce mobile holding cells or short-term jails on or near to defence bases. [162413]

Mr. Hanson: The Government are looking at a range of options to ensure demand for prison places is met in the short term. Lord Carter of Coles has been appointed to review a range of issues on prison capacity and is due to report later this autumn.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will break down the figures referred to in the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 804W, on Departments: official hospitality, to give the amounts spent on each function at which hospitality expenses were incurred. [162192]

Maria Eagle: The amount of hospitality expenditure incurred by the former Department for Constitutional Affairs, which covers costs for Her Majesty's Courts Service, Tribunals Service, Public Guardianship Office and DCA Headquarters, for 2006-07 was £46,002 made up of a large number of high volume, low value transactions.

Of the £46,002 spent, just over £41,000 related to Her Majesty's Courts Service and was made up of 800 individual transactions which, with the exception of five, were all below £1,000.

Expenditure by the Department on the more formal official functions is not accounted for under 'Hospitality'.

All hospitality expenditure incurred by the Department is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which are based on the principles set out in Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Highdown Prison: Prisoners Release

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners at HMP Prison Highdown were released within three *(a)* days and *(b)* weeks of commencing a sentence of six weeks or longer in the last six months. [162856]

Mr. Hanson: The detailed records requested on the total numbers of prisoners released from specific establishments who meet the criteria specified are not collated centrally. It would incur disproportionate cost to check individual prisoner records at the establishment to confirm whether any individual cases met the specific criteria of the question.

HMP Channing Wood: Parole

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* convicted offences and *(b)* nationalities were of the 34 people who received early releases since June 2007 from Channing Wood Prison, Denbury, South Devon. [163484]

Mr. Hanson: It is not possible to determine the precise offence for each of the 34 prisoners released on ECL since 29 June 2007 from Channings Wood without incurring disproportionate cost. In this case individual case records at the establishment would need to be checked. We do not currently publish nationality as part of the ECL report.

Foreign national prisoners who are liable to deportation at the end of their sentence are not eligible for release under the End of Custody Licence scheme. On average nationally some 6 per cent. of prisoners released on ECL are foreign nationals who did not meet the criteria for deportation.

Human Trafficking

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many victims of human trafficking *(a)* are estimated to be in the UK and *(b)* have been returned from the UK to their country of origin in each of the last five years. [161904]

Maria Eagle: Trafficking is predominantly a covert crime and it is not possible to provide accurate figures on the number of victims. Home Office research on organised crime markets suggests that at any one time in 2003 there were up to 4,000 women trafficked into the UK for sexual exploitation.

Data on returns relating to victims of trafficking in the last five years is not held centrally. Many victims of trafficking want to return home and voluntary returns are always the preferred option for those who have no basis to remain in the UK. The Government works in partnership with the International Organization for Migration to run Assisted Voluntary Returns programmes that provide victims with resettlement support. Removal action is considered as a last resort.

Legal Aid Scheme: Foster Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on the impact of changes in legal aid on residential family assessments and on the future of kinship care. [164032]

Maria Eagle: Between 1 March and 9 November 2007, my Department received seven representations on the removal of residential assessments from the scope of legal aid. The Legal Services Commission (LSC), who published a consultation on the subject, "The Funding Criteria for Child Care Proceedings", received 44 responses.

The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) (formerly the Department for Education and Skills) consulted on revised draft guidance, "The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 1 Court Orders". This places an increased emphasis on preparation by local authorities prior to launching proceedings, ensuring that applications are made only after kinship placement options for the child have been explored. 29 responses were received to this consultation, which are now being considered. The DCSF has also published "Care Matters: Time for Change", which sets out the Government's intention to legislate to enable carers who are relatives to apply for

residence orders in circumstances where a child has been living with them for a continuous period of at least one year.

Prison Service: Sick Leave

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much sick leave *(a)* prison officers and *(b)* other staff in each of the Welsh prison establishments (i) took in each year since 1997 and (ii) have taken in 2007 to date. [162793]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the total amount of sickness absence taken by officer grade staff and all other grades in Welsh prisons is shown in the following tables.

Sickness absence taken in Welsh prisons (public sector)

	Cardiff working days lost		Swansea working days lost		Usk/ Prescoed working days lost	
Year[1]	Total	Per person	Total	Per person	Total	Per person
Prison officers, senior officers and principal officers						
1999-2000	3,450	14.7	2,769	21.1	574	6.9
2000-01	3,609	16.0	2,099	16.9	272	3.2
2001-02	3,018	13.4	1,751	13.9	594	6.8
2002-03	2,205	9.7	1,640	12.9	944	11.0
2003-04	1,899	7.9	1,369	10.5	477	5.4
2004-05	1,877	7.4	11,453	10.0	239	2.6
2005-06	2,616	10.4	2,142	13.8	798	8.5
2006-07	2,630	10.5	1,861	12.2	1,246	13.1
April to September 2007[2]	1,221	9.4	934	12.3	569	12.4
Other staff						
1999-2000	1,301	10.2	1,368	17.5	724	8.8
2000-01	1,433	10.5	951	11.6	811	9.2
2001-02	1,549	9.2	902	8.3	846	8.0
2002-03	1,357	7.3	2,581	24.6	564	5.0
2003-04	1,641	8.2	1,730	15.7	586	4.9
2004-05	1,626	7.9	1,307	11.6	1,074	8.1
2005-06	1,882	8.7	1,484	11.3	1,409	9.5
2006-07	2,194	9.9	1,379	10.3	1,513	9.1
April to September 2007[2]	949	9.5	446	6.7	360	5.2

[1] Within the public sector reliable sickness absence data is only available from 1999-2000. [2] For 2007-08 the rate per person is an annualised rate.

Sickness absence taken at HMP Parc (private sector)

	Parc[1] working days lost	
	Officers	Other staff
1997	104	22
1998	932	278
1999	1,032	378
2000	1,615	398
2001	1,931	938
2002	2,572	1,177
2003	2,941	1,130
2004	3,312	1,458
2005	2,950	1,696
2006	2,209	1,280
2007	1,683	1,189

[1] Rate per person is not available.

Prisoners Release

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average licence period has been for prisoners released from prison before completing their sentence. [162600]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is available from table 10.1 (for adults aged 21+) and table 10.2 (for young offenders) of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library, and the table can be found at the Home Department website:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk.

For adult prisoners aged 21 or over, discharged in 2005 from prison establishments in England and Wales serving determinate sentences, the average length of sentence was 16.8 months and the average time served in custody was nine months, so that the average licence period was 7.8 months, or 46 per cent. of the sentence length (excludes discharges following recall after release on licence, non-criminals, persons committed to custody for non-payment of a fine and persons reclassified as adult prisoners).

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Road Traffic Act 1988: Prosecutions

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many successful prosecutions under section 42 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, as amended, were undertaken in each of the last three years against owners or drivers of vehicles judged to have tinted windows which failed to meet the relevant visual light transmission standard imposed by Regulation 32 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986; [161906]

(2) how many prosecutions under section 77 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, as amended, have been undertaken in each of the last three years as a consequence of vehicles being offered for sale which failed to adhere to the relevant visual light transmission standard imposed by Regulation 32 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986; [161907]

(3) how many prosecutions under section 76 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, as amended, have been undertaken as a consequence of vehicles being fitted with window tint which fails to comply with the relevant visual light transmission standard imposed by Regulation 32 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 in each of the last three years. [161946]

Maria Eagle: Available information held centrally on prosecutions does not separately identify offences under ss. 42, 77 and 76 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, as amended, where defendants fail to meet standards imposed by Regulation 32 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986. The offences are grouped together with other offences within the category 'vehicles or parts in dangerous or defective condition'.

Young Offenders: Housing

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the housing of young offenders when they have completed their sentences. [163900]

Mr. Hanson: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and I agreed the set of national indicators for local authorities and the inclusion of (among other indicators) an indicator on young offenders' access to suitable accommodation. That indicator now forms part of the single set of national indicators.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps he is taking to develop a fully integrated food policy. [162065]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA is working with the Cabinet Office Strategy Unit and other Government Departments on a study of food and food policy in the UK.

The project will examine current and emerging trends in the production and consumption of food, the key drivers of those trends and the implications for the wider economy, society and the environment. It will look at the opportunities and challenges facing the food system, including issues such as the contribution of diet to public health, food safety, changing consumer tastes and preferences, and environmental sustainability. In the first instance, the focus of the work will be analytical rather than policy focused but later phases are expected to draw out wider policy implications.

Voluntary Organisations

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the variability of the quality and depth of public services available in particular areas as a result of the relative strength of third sector organisations in those areas. [162485]

Phil Hope: The third sector review was an in-depth assessment of the role of the sector in economic and social regeneration. In terms of public service delivery the Government have undertaken, through the partnership in public services action plan, to remove barriers that third sector organisations experience when bidding to supply public services. It will be for local commissioners to decide on whether particular organisations, whether public, private or third sector, will provide best value and quality of those services.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academies have been *(a)* established, *(b)* agreed but yet to open and *(c)* proposed in each local education authority; and how many were for the age group (i) 11 to 16 and (ii) 11 to 18 years in each case. [162148]

Jim Knight: There are now 83 academies open in 49 local authorities. There are 12 projects in the implementation phase, and a further 69 projects where the Secretary of State has agreed a formal expression of interest with the local authority and a sponsor for an academy. Details are given in the following table which also indicates how many academies are catering for, or are proposed to cater for, the 11-16 and 11-18 age groups.

	Open		*In implementation*		*In feasibility*	
Local authority	*Number*	*Age group*	*Number*	*Age group*	*Number*	*Age group*
Barnet	1	11-18	—	—	1	11-18
Barnsley	1	11-18	—	—	—	—
Bexley	1	11-18	—	—	—	—
Birmingham	—	—	—	—	4	11-18
Blackburn and Darwen	—	—	—	—	1	11-18
Bolton	—	—	—	—	1	11-18
Bradford	2	11-18	—	—	1	11-18
Brent	1	11-18	—	—	1	11-18
Brighton and Hove	—	—	—	—	1	11-18
Bristol	2	11-16	1	11-18	2	11-16
					1	11-18
Cheshire	—	—	—	—	2	11-18
Coventry	—	—	1	11-18	1	11-18
Croydon	2	11-18	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	1	11-18
					2	11-18
Darlington	1	11-16	—	—	—	—
Derby	1	11-18	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	1	11-18
Doncaster	1	11-18	—	—	—	—
Ealing	1	11-18	—	—	—	—
Enfield	1	11-18	—	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	—	—	1	11-16
					1	11-18
Greenwich	1	11-16	—	—	—	—
Hackney	3	11-18	—	—	2	11-18
Hammersmith and Fulham	1	11-18	—	—	1	11-18
Haringey	1	11-18	—	—	—	—
Herefordshire	—	—	—	—	1	11-16
					1	11-18
Hillingdon	2	11-18	—	—	—	—
Islington	1	11-18	—	—	1	11-18
Kensington and Chelsea	—	—	1	11-18	—	—

Local authority	Open		In implementation		In feasibility	
	Number	Age group	Number	Age group	Number	Age group
Kingston upon Hull	—	—	—	—	2	11-18
Kent	6	11-18	—	—	1	11-18
	1	11-16				
Lambeth	1	11-18	1	11-18	—	—
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	1	11-18
Leeds	1	11-18	—	—	—	—
Leicester	1	11-16	—	—	—	—
Lewisham	2	11-18	—	—	—	—
	1	11-16				
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	3	11-18
					1	[1]—
Liverpool	1	11-16	—	—	—	—
	2	11-18				
Luton	2	11-18	—	—	—	—
Manchester	2	11-18	—	—	6	11-18
Merton	2	11-18	—	—	—	—
Middlesbrough	2	11-18	—	—	—	—
	1	11-16				
Milton Keynes	—	—	1	11-18	—	—
Newcastle	—	—	1	11-18	—	—
Newham	—	—	—	—	1	[1]—
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	1	11-18
North East Lincolnshire	3	11-18	—	—	—	—
North Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	1	11-16
Northamptonshire	1	11-18	1	11-18	1	11-18
Northumberland	—	—	—	—	2	11-18
Nottingham, City of	1	11-18	—	—	2	11-18
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	1	11-18
Oxfordshire	1	11-18	—	—	1	11-18
Peterborough	1	11-18	—	—	—	—
Reading	1	11-18	—	—	—	—
Rochdale	1	11-18	—	—	—	—
Salford	1	11-18	—	—	1	11-18
Sandwell	3	11-18	1	11-18	1	11-18
Sheffield	2	11-18	—	—	—	—
Slough	—	—	1	11-18	—	—
Solihull	1	11-18	—	—	1	11-18
South Gloucestershire	1	11-18	—	—	—	—
Southwark	7	11-18	—	—	2	11-18
Southampton	—	—	—	—	2	[1]—
St. Helens	—	—	—	—	1	11-18
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	1	11-18
Stockport	1	11-18	—	—	—	—
Sunderland	—	—	3	11-16	—	—
Swindon	1	11-18	—	—	—	—
Tameside	—	—	—	—	2	11-18
Telford and Wrekin	1	11-18	—	—	1	11-16
Thurrock	1	11-18	—	—	—	—
Waltham Forest	1	11-18	—	—	—	—
Walsall	1	11-18	—	—	—	—
Wandsworth	1	11-18	—	—	—	—
West Sussex	—	—	—	—	3	11-16
Westminster	3	11-18	—	—	1	[1]—
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	1	11-18

[1] Age group to be confirmed

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether it is his policy that the main sponsor of an academy can be a local authority; and if he will make a statement. [163294]

Jim Knight: Academies are independent schools, which means that a local authority cannot be the main sponsor. Local authorities are increasingly becoming engaged in the strategic planning and co-sponsorship of academies in their localities within their wider school rebuilding and transformational strategies, and a number of local authorities are co-sponsors of academies in their area. The Government welcome this engagement.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what changes there have been to his Department's projections for the number of academies to be opened by the end of each of the next five financial years since inception of the programme; and what the reasons were for those changes. [163383]

Jim Knight: The academies programme was introduced as part of the then Secretary of State (Mr. Blunkett's) March 2000 speech on transforming secondary education. The programme has always targeted areas with inadequate existing secondary schools, with some academies replacing under-performing schools and others meeting the demand for new school places.

The first three academies opened in September 2002, and early projections included 25 academies in London by 2007 and a total of 57 academies.

The Department's Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners, published in July 2004 included a target for 200 academies open or in the pipeline by 2010 with 60 in London. With an increasing body of evidence that academies are working and transforming the life chances of some of the most disadvantaged communities, in November 2006 the Government announced a scaling up of the academies programme, with an overall target to establish 400 academies.

83 academies have opened to date and we estimate that around 50 will open in each year from 2008 to 2010. Financial allocations for later years are subject to future spending review decisions.

The projected number of academies that are due to open at the beginning of any academic year is likely to change several times over the course of the preceding year as a result of project specific factors including land and site issues. A response detailing each change to projections and the reason for those changes could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criteria determine whether a school can apply to be an academy; whether he plans to alter these criteria; and if he will make a statement. [163443]

Jim Knight: The academies programme targets areas of inadequate educational attainment and opportunity. Some academies are brand new schools which need the extra school places, others are successful fee paying schools that wish to serve their whole local community and broaden their intake—providing high quality places where they are needed. However, most academies replace weak or underperforming schools. As a general rule, the Government are prepared to consider any secondary school where in 2006 fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils gained five or more GCSEs at A*-C including English and maths as a potential academy project. In addition, local authorities would always consider an academy as an option for dealing with a school in special measures, or subject to an improvement notice, whatever it's results. They should also be considered where there is a need for additional secondary places. This policy is set out in the 2007 prospectus for academies, 400 Academies; prospectus for sponsors and local authorities.

The Department has no plans to alter these criteria.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the likely number of academies in England in each year until 2020; and if he will make a statement. [163449]

Jim Knight: The Government are committed to opening 400 academies. Details of the number of academies opened and planned to open between 2002 (when the first academy opened) and 2010 are included in the following table.

83 academies have opened to date and we estimate that around 50 will open in each year from 2008 to 2010. The projected number of academies that are due to open at the beginning of any academic year is likely to change several times over the course of the preceding year as a result of project specific factors including land and site issues.

The number of academies that open in each year from 2011 to 2020 will depend on the decisions made during future spending reviews.

	Opening in period	*Cumulative total*
2002	3	3
2003	9	12
2004	5	17
2005	10	27
2006	19	46
April 2007	1	47
September 2007	36	83
2008	[1]50	133
2009	[1]50	183
2010	[1]50	233

[1] Estimated

Academies: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanism is available to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the Government to ensure that academy schools take appropriate numbers of (i) special educational needs students and (ii) students entitled to free school meals. [163100]

Jim Knight: Academies are fully inclusive schools and they are established in partnership with local authorities. Their funding agreements set out that they are required to comply with admissions law and the statutory School Admissions Code. They are also part of their local school admissions fora. They must have regard to the SEN code of practice and statutory guidance on inclusion.

The National Foundation for Educational Research and the Local Government Association published a report in summer 2006 entitled "Admissions: Who Goes Where". The report found that academies on average admit more pupils with SEN (both with and without statements) than other schools in England. Academies also, on average, admit more SEN pupils (both with and without statements) than their predecessor schools. The report also found that academies admit higher proportions of pupils eligible for FSM than the proportion living in the local postcode districts.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupil entrants are admitted on the basis of aptitude in each academy school; and if he will make a statement. [163562]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to his question on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 364W.

Academies: Curriculum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of curriculum time is allocated to *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and ICT academies; and if he will make a statement. [163563]

Jim Knight: All Academies are required to teach English, maths, science and ICT and Academies with funding agreements signed after July 2007 must follow the National Curriculum programmes of study in these subjects. The Department does not monitor the proportion of curriculum time allocated to individual subject areas.

Academies: Fire Prevention

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academies have been fitted with sprinklers. [162056]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information on which academy buildings have sprinklers.

Academies: Sixth Form Education

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the establishment of academies providing sixth form

in areas which already cater for students in the age group 16 to 18 years which have a sixth form college, a further education institute and schools with sixth forms. [162147]

Jim Knight: It has always been the assumption that academies will have sixth form provision as part of their mission to raise aspirations and staying on rates.

Although post-16 participation rates have improved in recent years, the UK still has one of the lowest proportions of pupils in full time education or training at age 17 among OECD countries.

Academies are proving successful in encouraging more pupils to stay on in education or training post-16. Within the local arrangements for delivering 14-19 specialised vocational diplomas, it is the norm for Academies to be post-16 providers in their own right. Where an academy proposal does not include sixth form provision, the Government would need to be assured that arrangements for post-16 provision for pupils leaving the academy are as good, in terms of accessibility and quality, as those which could be provided by the academy itself.

Many academies have universities either as sponsors or as partners, and defined progression routes to further and higher education are a key priority.

Academies: Trade Union Recognition

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and which academies have reached recognition agreements with *(a)* teaching unions and *(b)* unions representing other members of staff. [163202]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect this data. However, as good employers, we would expect academies to recognise staff associations.

Child Minding: Qualifications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of registered childminders have a Level 3 qualification; and if he will make a statement. [163327]

Beverley Hughes: Information taken from the 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers' Survey shows that 33 per cent. of childminders hold a Level 3 qualification. The Department is committed to ensuring a greater proportion of the early years and childcare workforce is qualified to level 3 and to encouraging continuous professional development at all levels. Over the period 2006-08, we funded workforce development primarily through the General Sure Start Grant and the Transformation Fund. From April 2008 to March 2011, development of the early years and childcare workforce, including registered childminders, will be funded through the new Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant.

Child Minding: Registration

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families at what level he intends to fix the registration fee for registered childminders on the compulsory early years register; what account will be taken of affordability in setting that level; and if he will make a statement. [163329]

Beverley Hughes: Our proposals for the levels of fees for the early years register and the compulsory part of the Ofsted Childcare Register from September 2008 will be published for consultation shortly. The proposed fee levels and support arrangements for providers will take into account provider income information from the 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers' survey.

Children: Asylum

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what responsibilities his Department has in relation to children seeking asylum; [162168]

(2) what responsibilities the Under-Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families holds in relation to asylum-seeking children. [162170]

Beverley Hughes: The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families' Department holds the same responsibility to children seeking asylum in this country as they hold to UK citizen children. The Government are committed to enabling all children including those seeking asylum to reach their full potential. This includes the Under-Secretary of State maintaining a strong lead in securing integrated children's services and educational excellence for all.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in what areas it is proposed that his Department will achieve annual net cash savings of £4.5 billion by 2010-11, as set out in the Comprehensive Spending Review. [163429]

Kevin Brennan: The Department is due to publish details of the specific initiatives which contribute to our £4.5 billion savings by the end of 2007.

The information will be in the form of a Delivery Agreement between the Department for Children, Schools and Families and HM Treasury.

Departmental Reorganisation

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost has been of re-branding his Department following the change in name from the Department for Education and Skills. [162104]

Kevin Brennan: There were no costs for re-branding. Costs for producing branded material in relation to the creation of DCSF were £14,215 for the design, production and installation of signage, together with £900 for the recycling costs of previous stationery stock.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the proportion of school time spent preparing for key stage 2 tests by children in year 6; and if he will make a statement. [163450]

Jim Knight: The National Assessment Agency, which is responsible for administering the tests, advises schools to prepare their pupils for the tests by providing them with opportunities to familiarise themselves with the layout and design of past test papers, encouraging them to work independently and to be aware that there may be questions in the tests that they will not be able to answer. Head teachers have responsibility for deciding how much preparation pupils should have, but neither the Department nor NAA recommend intensive preparation for the tests.

Information about time spent on test preparation is not collected centrally. However, as part of a research exercise, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) gathered information about test preparations in school year 2006-07 from 376 primary, infant and junior, schools. Those schools reported on the time spent in year six on direct preparation for key stage 2 tests as follows:

Time spent on test preparation

	Percentage of schools
First half of autumn term of year six	
None	52
One hour or more	48
Two hours or more	28
Second half of spring term of year six	
None	10
Two hours or more	90
Three hours or more	71

The sample of schools responding to the QCA's survey was small and not necessarily representative.

Foster Care

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what action the Government have taken to keep siblings together during fostering and adoption since 1997. [162972]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The well-being of looked after children is paramount and legislation focuses on securing this. Section 23(7)(b) of the Children Act 1989 places a duty on local authorities to accommodate a child together with his/her siblings so far as is 'reasonably practical and consistent with his welfare'. The Act also requires local authorities to encourage contact between siblings.

An important factor to be taken into account in placement decisions is the number of children who may be placed in a foster home. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Schedule 7 to the Act prescribe a 'usual fostering limit' of three children. Local authorities may, however, exceed the usual fostering limit if the children concerned are all siblings.

This Government have invested significantly to improve the choice of placements available, so that a higher number of looked after children are now living in foster placements than ever before.

In relation to adoption we have:

issued statutory guidance to adoption agencies emphasising the importance of children being placed in sibling groups where this is in their best interests;

required local authorities to make a range of adoption support services available, including financial support to facilitate siblings being placed together; and

set up an adoption register for England and Wales which enables children and prospective adopters to be matched beyond local areas. It has an important role to play in finding matches for more difficult to place children, such as those in sibling groups.

Further Education: Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students at further education colleges in England are resident in Wales. [162499]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Learning and Skills Council collect data on learners in further education colleges through the Individualised Learner Record. Latest full-year participation figures are for 2005/06 and were published in December 2006. In 2005/06, there were 8,025 learners studying at further education colleges in England who were living in Wales prior to enrolment.

Geronimo Communications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what payments his Department and its predecessor made to Geronimo Communications in each year since 1997. [163195]

Jim Knight: Details of payments made to Geronimo Communication by the Department and its predecessors over the last nine years are set out in the following table:

	£
1999-2000	320,132
2000-01	715,379
2001-02	1,221,349
2002-03	1,347,384
2003-04	1,153,197
2004-05	459,374
2005-06	2,441,139
2006-07	2,013,211
2007-08[1]	1,157,691

[1] To date

The data was requested for the last 11 years, however, the Department is only able to supply nine years. The Department is only required to retain financial records and original documentation for six years after the end of the financial year in which the transaction took place.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007 as a result of a machinery of government change and the expenditure recorded above includes those of the two predecessor Departments, the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) and the Department of Education and Skills (DfES). The expenditure for 2007-08 will also include any costs incurred by the newly created Department for Universities, Innovation and Skills, where these costs relate to areas formerly the responsibility of the Department for Education and Skills.

Languages: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people in Suffolk were entered for a modern language at GCSE in each of the last five years. [162293]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the amount of per pupil deprivation-related funding for each school in England for the latest 12 months for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [163536]

Jim Knight: Providing this information at school level would require an analysis of the detail within each of 148 local authority formulae, which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the different methodologies used by local authorities to distribute deprivation-related funding. [163537]

Jim Knight: In September 2006, my Department produced a technical review of deprivation indicators, containing summary information on the main deprivation indicators potentially available and the extent to which they were being used by local authorities for that purpose. This guidance can be found on the Teachernet website at the following link: www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=10254

Pupils: Intimidation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken since 1997 to tackle problems of bullying in schools. [162780]

Kevin Brennan: The Government believe that all bullying is wrong and should never be tolerated in schools, and our guidance makes this clear.

Since 1997 we have introduced an extensive range of measures to tackle bullying in schools. We have issued guidance for schools and the Anti-Bullying Charter which includes a detailed list of questions for the school community to consider when formulating its anti-bullying policy. We have worked with and funded a number of partners, including: the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) who arrange the annual Anti-Bullying Week, and provide a range of advice and support to local authorities; ParentLine Plus, who run a helpline for parents whose children are being bullied and provide other resources through their 'Be Someone to Tell' campaign; and ChildLine in Partnership with Schools (CHIPS) who run peer mentoring schemes for the Department. We also fund awards for anti-bullying work as part of the Princess Diana Memorial Awards scheme.

We have placed a legal duty on head teachers to determine measures to promote good behaviour, respect for others and to prevent all forms of bullying among pupils as part of their overall behaviour policy. The Education and Inspections Act (2006) Act also provides head teachers with the power, to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the conduct of pupils when they are off-site or not under the control or charge of a member of staff. This is of particular significance to cyberbullying, which is often likely to take place out of school but which can impact very strongly on the school life of those pupils involved.

We recently launched comprehensive new guidance for schools which replaces "Don't Suffer in Silence". This was issued under the new title "Safe to Learn: Embedding Anti-Bullying Work in Schools" on 21 September 2007. It includes specific advice on homophobic bullying and cyberbullying, and links to pre-existing guidance on bullying around racism, religion and culture that was issued last year. To complete this suite of guidance, we have begun preparing advice on how to tackle the bullying of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities will publish this next spring.

We have asked the National Strategies and anti-Bullying Alliance to work with schools and local authorities to ensure the guidance is effectively implemented on the ground and we will monitor this very closely. We have also asked the National Strategies to provide challenge and support to those schools which have been identified as weak or ineffective in their approach to dealing with bullying.

This year the Department will provide around £1.7 million for anti-bullying programmes, and funding levels are set to rise in future years. This covers the costs of grants to external organisations, as well as anti-bullying resources, the publication of guidance and support for local authorities and schools and directly funded external events.

Schools: Capital Investment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the likely percentage increase in total schools capital allocation in real terms between 2008-09 and 2010-11 for each English local authority; and if he will make a statement. [163434]

Jim Knight: I will write separately to the hon. Member, setting out the likely percentage increase in total schools capital allocation in real terms between 2008-09 and 2010-11 for each local authority, and will place a copy of the letter in the House of Commons Library. The figures will include allocations made to date, but not additional allocations that will be made through the Building Schools for the Future, academies and targeted programmes that require applications.

Allocations for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 amount, in real terms, to a seven-fold increase since 1996-97. Total schools' capital funding available for allocation in the years 2007-08 to 2010-11 is set out in the following table, shown in cash and in real terms.

	2008-09	2009-10	£ million 2010-11
Total capital funding: Cash	6,669	7,024	8,235
Total capital funding: Real	6,494	6,660	7,602

Note: The GDP deflator base year is 2006-07 and the projected inflation rate for 2007-08 to 2009-10 is an annual 2.7 per cent.

Schools: Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what central Government funding was available to schools in each London borough in each of the last five years. [162214]

Jim Knight: The revenue funding figures available to schools in each of the London boroughs for years 2003-04 to 2005-06 are as follows:

	EFS + grants		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Barking and Dagenham	120.6	131.1	139.0
Barnet	186.1	196.9	207.3
Bexley	140.6	150.1	161.6
Brent	173.7	185.7	200.3
Bromley	176.2	189.7	202.6
Camden	114.3	124.0	130.5
Croydon	190.9	205.6	216.0
Ealing	179.3	189.0	201.6
Enfield	194.3	210.3	222.8
Greenwich	172.2	184.1	195.9
Hackney	143.2	153.3	166.9
Hammersmith and Fulham	90.8	98.0	101.5
Haringey	152.0	166.8	172.7
Harrow	110.2	117.9	125.6
Havering	131.5	141.4	149.0
Hillingdon	155.5	168.3	179.1
Hounslow	148.0	157.8	168.7
Islington	123.0	130.4	138.1
Kensington and Chelsea	59.7	64.6	68.1
Kingston upon Thames	75.5	82.4	89.6
Lambeth	153.1	163.6	172.2
Lewisham	169.8	179.9	188.7
Merton	86.7	92.7	101.1
Newham	222.0	235.7	249.6
Redbridge	162.3	175.2	187.0
Richmond upon Thames	69.6	75.0	81.1
Southwark	175.6	183.6	199.1
Sutton	112.3	123.5	131.4
Tower Hamlets	197.6	211.2	228.4
Waltham Forest	152.6	162.5	170.9
Wandsworth	135.7	146.1	155.7
Westminster	98.0	106.0	113.1

Notes:
1. Price base: cash.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Education Formula Spending (EPS) settlements and include the pensions transfer to EFS and the Learning and Skills Council.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged 3-19 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The EFS figures exclude the LEA block funding (to cover LEA central functions). Figures also exclude any capital funding.
5. Where responsibility for funding a school has transferred from an authority, related funding no longer appears in the series.
6. Rounding: figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million.
7. Status: some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The revenue figures shown in the following table are taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006. They are not comparable with those for the years 2003-04 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending. The 2003-04 to 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable. An alternative time series is currently under development.

The revenue funding figures available to schools in each of the London boroughs for years 2006-07 to 2007-08 are as follows:

	DSG + grants	
	2006-07	2007-08
Barking and Dagenham	145.9	157.4
Barnet	219.3	231.9
Bexley	169.5	178.4
Brent	205.1	221.5
Bromley	202.2	212.9
Camden	143.3	150.1
Croydon	220.8	232.8
Ealing	211.0	227.4
Enfield	234.6	248.9
Greenwich	202.1	213.0
Hackney	170.5	174.9
Hammersmith and Fulham	101.0	103.5
Haringey	180.2	190.4
Harrow	134.2	142.5
Havering	156.9	165.2
Hillingdon	186.6	197.5
Hounslow	175.3	185.2
Islington	140.3	144.2
Kensington and Chelsea	69.7	71.9
Kingston upon Thames	95.1	100.4
Lambeth	175.8	188.2
Lewisham	196.4	202.2
Merton	102.5	105.7
Newham	258.5	274.4

	DSG + grants	
	2006-07	2007-08
Redbridge	195.4	211.8
Richmond upon Thames	89.7	95.1
Southwark	201.3	197.8
Sutton	136.9	145.8
Tower Hamlets	244.2	261.0
Waltham Forest	176.3	183.3
Wandsworth	157.5	167.3
Westminster	109.6	112.1

Notes:
1. Price base: cash.
2. Figures exclude capital funding.
3. Where responsibility for funding a school has transferred from an authority, related funding no longer appears in the series.
4. Rounding: figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million.
5. Status: some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on his latest plans to claw back five per cent. of school year-end surpluses; and if he will publish the responses to the public consultation on the issue. [163185]

Jim Knight: On 30 October I announced the Government's decisions following the consultation. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of that date, *Official Report*, column 29WS.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families will be producing a report on the consultation in due course.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much of the schools budget was retained centrally by each local authority in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* as a percentage of the total schools budget in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [164015]

Jim Knight: The information requested is contained within the following table:

Total schools budget[1, 2] for local authorities in England: 2007-08

		Of which: centrally retained[2, 3, 4]	
Local authority name	*Total schools budget[1, 3, 4] (£)*	*cash terms (£)*	*as a percentage of total schools budget*
England	34,358,576,000	3,884,484,000	11.3
Barking and Dagenham	157,849,000	15,695,000	9.9
Barnet	234,249,000	24,562,000	10.5
Barnsley	144,628,000	13,546,000	9.4
Bath and North East Somerset	109,883,000	17,418,000	15.9
Bedfordshire	280,305,000	28,059,000	10.0
Bexley	179,468,000	19,228,000	10.7
Birmingham	894,288,000	66,676,000	7.5
Blackburn and Darwen	124,369,000	14,778,000	11.9
Blackpool	93,668,000	13,914,000	14.9
Bolton	201,988,000	20,679,000	10.2

Total schools budget[1, 2] for local authorities in England: 2007-08

		Of which: centrally retained[2, 3, 4]	
Local authority name	*Total schools budget[1, 3, 4] (£)*	*cash terms (£)*	*as a percentage of total schools budget*
Bournemouth	88,356,000	11,355,000	12.9
Bracknell Forest	67,614,000	10,318,000	15.3
Bradford	405,010,000	37,820,000	9.3
Brent	222,481,000	19,494,000	8.8
Brighton and Hove	138,596,000	19,672,000	14.2
Bromley	212,818,000	26,717,000	12.6
Buckinghamshire	338,508,000	53,412,000	15.8
Bury	117,640,000	12,237,000	10.4
Calderdale	152,351,000	14,391,000	9.4
Cambridgeshire	332,946,000	39,305,000	11.8
Camden	154,825,000	27,224,000	17.6
Cheshire	439,234,000	52,885,000	12.0
City of Bristol	225,835,000	31,338,000	13.9
City of Kingston-Upon-Hull	172,819,000	19,812,000	11.5
City of London	2,187,000	753,000	34.4
Cornwall	319,656,000	47,090,000	14.7
Coventry	231,196,000	25,566,000	11.1
Croydon	233,034,000	28,717,000	12.3
Cumbria	326,906,000	31,416,000	9.6
Darlington	67,158,000	7,392,000	11.0
Derby	170,317,000	15,612,000	9.2
Derbyshire	478,136,000	48,503,000	10.1
Devon	407,649,000	35,134,000	8.6
Doncaster	208,718,000	18,894,000	9.1
Dorset	240,573,000	30,704,000	12.8
Dudley	212,850,000	21,988,000	10.3
Durham	335,661,000	25,958,000	7.7
Ealing	224,892,000	25,168,000	11.2
East Riding of Yorkshire	206,102,000	23,347,000	11.3
East Sussex	293,898,000	36,768,000	12.5
Enfield	254,752,000	25,735,000	10.1
Essex	886,153,000	97,632,000	11.0
Gateshead	126,688,000	13,022,000	10.3
Gloucestershire	362,470,000	46,715,000	12.9
Greenwich	216,022,000	23,951,000	11.1
Hackney	179,720,000	37,668,000	21.0
Halton	89,793,000	10,506,000	11.7
Hammersmith and Fulham	103,094,000	14,365,000	13.9
Hampshire	731,264,000	87,904,000	12.0
Haringey	188,566,000	20,296,000	10.8
Harrow	141,357,000	13,407,000	9.5
Hartlepool	69,641,000	7,041,000	10.1
Havering	163,311,000	14,926,000	9.1
Herefordshire	100,334,000	11,247,000	11.2
Hertfordshire	749,520,000	78,133,000	10.4
Hillingdon	203,133,000	20,895,000	10.3
Hounslow	187,789,000	19,546,000	10.4
Isle of Wight	88,230,000	11,127,000	12.6
Isles of Scilly	2,237,000	223,000	10.0
Islington	143,170,000	23,331,000	16.3
Kensington and Chelsea	73,088,000	10,226,000	14.0
Kent	955,253,000	111,953,000	11.7

Total schools budget[1, 2] for local authorities in England: 2007-08

Local authority name	*Total schools budget[1, 3, 4] (£)*	*Of which: centrally retained[2, 3, 4] cash terms (£)*	*Of which: centrally retained[2, 3, 4] as a percentage of total schools budget*
Kingston upon Thames	101,088,000	9,100,000	9.0
Kirklees	283,170,000	29,792,000	10.5
Knowsley	113,245,000	13,227,000	11.7
Lambeth	184,690,000	25,465,000	13.8
Lancashire	759,377,000	84,774,000	11.2
Leeds	476,769,000	37,422,000	7.8
Leicester	222,070,000	33,256,000	15.0
Leicestershire	398,122,000	46,224,000	11.6
Lewisham	204,871,000	29,813,000	14.6
Lincolnshire	440,099,000	49,656,000	11.3
Liverpool	351,417,000	41,232,000	11.7
Luton	149,608,000	16,315,000	10.9
Manchester	328,704,000	39,952,000	12.2
Medway	195,410,000	21,292,000	10.9
Merton	105,488,000	15,058,000	14.3
Middlesbrough	92,884,000	10,316,000	11.1
Milton Keynes	174,612,000	20,152,000	11.5
Newcastle upon Tyne	177,675,000	22,962,000	12.9
Newham	277,123,000	32,184,000	11.6
Norfolk	486,377,000	47,743,000	9.8
North East Lincolnshire	115,711,000	21,240,000	18.4
North Lincolnshire	105,037,000	14,126,000	13.4
North Somerset	124,101,000	18,756,000	15.1
North Tyneside	127,974,000	8,714,000	6.8
North Yorkshire	372,273,000	34,509,000	9.3
Northamptonshire	439,883,000	53,786,000	12.2
Northumberland	211,756,000	25,632,000	12.1
Nottingham City	186,589,000	27,053,000	14.5
Nottinghamshire	490,354,000	44,661,000	9.1
Oldham	182,947,000	20,212,000	11.0
Oxfordshire	367,360,000	48,504,000	13.2
Peterborough	134,453,000	16,272,000	12.1
Plymouth	172,694,000	22,244,000	12.9
Poole	81,739,000	8,318,000	10.2
Portsmouth	111,175,000	10,744,000	9.7
Reading	78,470,000	13,491,000	17.2
Redbridge	212,399,000	18,452,000	8.7
Redcar and Cleveland	100,338,000	11,487,000	11.4
Richmond upon Thames	94,686,000	12,890,000	13.6
Rochdale	160,203,000	18,258,000	11.4
Rotherham	205,599,000	21,151,000	10.3
Rutland	21,015,000	2,032,000	9.7
Salford	151,393,000	21,576,000	14.3
Sandwell	224,175,000	20,045,000	8.9
Sefton	191,551,000	19,603,000	10.2
Sheffield	349,683,000	70,412,000	20.1
Shropshire	172,445,000	25,819,000	15.0
Slough	106,370,000	11,071,000	10.4
Solihull	138,904,000	15,555,000	11.2

Total schools budget[1, 2] for local authorities in England: 2007-08

Local authority name	*Total schools budget[1, 3, 4] (£)*	*Of which: centrally retained[2, 3, 4] cash terms (£)*	*Of which: centrally retained[2, 3, 4] as a percentage of total schools budget*
Somerset	296,417,000	35,394,000	11.9
South Gloucestershire	162,926,000	17,436,000	10.7
South Tyneside	105,715,000	9,521,000	9.0
Southampton	133,868,000	17,653,000	13.2
Southend	123,654,000	14,967,000	12.1
Southwark	193,520,000	22,148,000	11.4
St. Helens	123,468,000	14,169,000	11.5
Staffordshire	524,551,000	50,150,000	9.6
Stockport	163,526,000	21,830,000	13.3
Stockton-on-Tees	130,976,000	13,066,000	10.0
Stoke on Trent	157,422,000	18,942,000	12.0
Suffolk	418,772,000	45,753,000	10.9
Sunderland	193,475,000	16,215,000	8.4
Surrey	618,803,000	72,057,000	11.6
Sutton	144,671,000	15,698,000	10.9
Swindon	115,011,000	13,388,000	11.6
Tameside	155,007,000	20,797,000	13.4
Telford and Wrekin	112,108,000	13,693,000	12.2
Thurrock	100,241,000	17,159,000	17.1
Torbay	83,760,000	10,669,000	12.7
Tower Hamlets	273,874,000	38,281,000	14.0
Trafford	150,777,000	14,654,000	9.7
Wakefield	215,575,000	17,335,000	8.0
Walsall	211,259,000	19,603,000	9.3
Waltham Forest	185,905,000	15,670,000	8.4
Wandsworth	170,558,000	9,541,000	5.6
Warrington	131,624,000	14,266,000	10.8
Warwickshire	324,544,000	33,634,000	10.4
West Berkshire	113,790,000	12,976,000	11.4
West Sussex	459,318,000	62,064,000	13.5
Westminster	114,833,000	14,805,000	12.9
Wigan	203,615,000	13,771,000	6.8
Wiltshire	281,781,000	35,617,000	12.6
Windsor and Maidenhead	88,700,000	11,227,000	12.7
Wirral	231,441,000	24,255,000	10.5
Wokingham	100,821,000	9,784,000	9.7
Wolverhampton	191,382,000	18,857,000	9.9
Worcestershire	331,921,000	29,595,000	8.9
York	100,652,000	11,902,000	11.8

[1] Total schools budget figures are drawn from local authorities Section 52 Budget Statements submitted to the DCSF (formally DfES). This is calculated as the gross elements of any grants plus the net elements of the remainder of the schools budget.

[2] Within the schools budget, the individual schools budget as well as any grants devolved to schools are treated as delegated to schools with the remainder of the schools budget controlled centrally by the local authority on behalf of its schools.

[3] 2007-08 data are subject to change by the local authority.

[4] Cash figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000 and may not sum due to rounding.

Note:

Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 9 November 2007.

Schools: Governing Bodies

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of his Department's civil servants have been appointed to interim executive boards; and if he will list the schools involved. [162145]

Jim Knight: Only one civil servant from the Department for Children, Schools and Families has served on an interim executive board (IEB). This was for a temporary period in 2006 when there was a vacancy on the IEB being set up at Rhodesway School in Bradford caused by the unexpected resignation of the nominated Chair.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many interim executive boards he has established in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by local authority. [162146]

Jim Knight: There have been 54 applications from local authorities (LAs) to the Secretary of State seeking permission to appoint an interim executive board (IEB) which have been approved since the powers came into force in September 2002. Two of these were later not implemented by the LA. In addition two IEBs have been established using the Secretary of State's own power to create an IEB in Hampshire and Wolverhampton. The following table shows where IEBs have been put in place.

Local authority	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007 to date*
Barnet	—	—	—	1	—	—
Birmingham	1	—	—	—	—	—
Blackburn and Darwen	—	1	—	—	—	—
Bradford	—	1	—	2	—	—
Bristol	—	—	1	1	—	—
Calderdale	—	—	—	—	2	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	1	—
Derby	—	1	—	—	—	—
East Riding	—	—	—	—	1	—
Enfield	—	—	—	—	2	—
Essex	—	—	—	—	1	1
Hackney	—	—	—	1	1	—
Hampshire	—	1	—	—	1	—
Isle of Wight	—	—	—	—	1	—
Islington	1	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	—	1	—	—	—	—
Kingston upon Hull	—	—	—	—	1	—
Leicester	—	—	—	1	1	—
Merton	—	—	—	1	—	—
Newcastle upon Tyne	—	—	—	—	1	—
North East Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	1
North Lincolnshire	—	—	—	1	—	—
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	3
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	1	—
Nottingham	—	1	—	—	—	—
Peterborough	1	—	—	—	—	—
Reading	—	1	—	—	—	—
Slough	—	—	1	—	—	1
Southampton	—	—	—	1	—	—
Southend on Sea	—	1	—	—	—	—
Southwark	—	—	—	1	—	—
Stockton-on-Tees	—	—	—	—	—	1
Surrey	—	—	—	2	1	—
Tameside	—	—	—	—	—	1
Walsall	—	—	1	—	1	—
Warwickshire	—	1	—	—	—	—
Westminster	—	—	—	—	1	—
Wolverhampton	—	—	—	—	1	—
Worcestershire	—	1	—	—	—	—

Sixth Form Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of comprehensive schools have sixth forms. [163628]

Jim Knight: The available information is shown in the following table:

Maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies[1] as at January 2007, England

	Number of schools with sixth form pupils[2,3]	*Percentage of schools with sixth form pupils[4]*
Maintained secondary schools	1,755	52.5
CTCs	10	100.0
Academies	30	65.2
Total	1,795	52.8

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Based on the number of schools with one or more pupils in national curriculum year groups 12,13 or 14.
[3] Includes pupils with both sole and dual main registration.
[4] The number of schools with pupils in national curriculum years 12, 13 or 14 expressed as a percentage of all schools of this type.
Source:
School Census

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust: Expenditure

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much funding his Department has allocated to the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust in each of the last five years, broken down by category of expenditure; [162112]

(2) what outcomes were expected of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust for each category of funding allocated to it by his Department in each of the past five years; and if he will provide an assessment of how the organisation performed against each expected outcome. [162113]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The total amounts paid to SSAT in the last five years for the main expenditure headings are set out in the table.

Each programme line has separately agreed outcomes, negotiated over varying time-frames, and which are subject to appropriate reporting and monitoring procedures. SSAT has met all of the Department's conditions of funding.

There are many aspects of SSAT's work which contribute to the overall success of the Specialist Schools and Academies programmes. The headline success criteria for the Specialist Schools Programme are the numbers of schools achieving and maintaining specialist school status, and raising achievement at Key Stage 4. On the first of these, we are on track to achieve the target of 95 per cent. of eligible mainstream schools to become specialist or academies by the end of 2008. On the second, specialist schools have consistently outperformed other schools. On average, across all specialist schools, specialist status is linked to higher results at GCSE whether this is on the 5+A*-C measure, VA or CVA.

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	£ 2006-07
Grant					
Core grant (Specialist school work)	2,739,988	7,896,490	9,972,501	11,087,000	13,315,000
Vocational/WRL	—	426,855	1,192,625	1,770,425	1,540,000
Raising Achievement Transforming Learning	—	2,618,000	5,151,590	5,353,977	6,800,000
ICT	—	—	323,500	1,090,150	295,000
Academies	—	—	382,993	1,400,000	3,042,381
Other	1,282,826	32,400	—	2,380,080	7,966,000
Sub Total	4,022,814	10,973,745	17,023,209	23,081,632	32,918,381
Contracts					
TIPD	330,000	338,400	761,922	1,239,370	1,012,000
Language Colleges—Sections Européennes project	18,650	14,615	11,385	29,660	32,000
LEP	—	—	—	—	1,190,000
Sub Total	348,650	353,015	773,307	1,269,030	2,234,000
Total	4,371,464	11,326,760	17,796,516	24,350,662	35,152,381

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average full-time equivalent gross pay of teachers in Huddersfield schools was *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* at current prices in each year since 1997. [162156]

Jim Knight: The Huddersfield area falls within the Kirklees local authority and the information contained within the following tables is the expenditure on teaching staff supplied by Kirklees.

School expenditure on teaching staff[1] by local authority maintained schools[2] in Kirklees local authority: 1997-98 to 2006-07[2,3,4,5,6,7]

	Teaching staff (E01)	Supply teaching staff (E02)	Agency supply teaching staff (E26)	Cash terms prices (£) [1]Total teaching staff
1997-98	n/a	n/a	n/a	84,664,000
1998-99	n/a	n/a	n/a	87,087,000
1999-2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	97,893,000
2000-01	n/a	n/a	n/a	104,825,000
2001-02	n/a	n/a	n/a	114,288,000
2002-03	111,326,000	2,915,666	2,541,666	116,782,000
2003-04	121,826,000	2,837,000	2,750,000	127,413,000
2004-05	126,930,000	3,760,000	1,923,000	132,612,000
2005-06	134,365,000	3,901,000	2,572,000	140,838,000
2006-07	139,209,000	3,393,000	3,508,000	146,110,000

	Teaching staff (E01)	Supply teaching staff (E02)	Agency supply teaching staff (E26)	Real terms prices (£) Total teaching staff
1997-98	n/a	n/a	n/a	105,249,000
1998-99	n/a	n/a	n/a	105,588,000
1999-2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	116,341,000
2000-01	n/a	n/a	n/a	122,831,000
2001-02	n/a	n/a	n/a	130,788,000
2002-03	123,533,000	3,234,000	2,820,000	129,588,000
2003-04	131,379,000	3,059,000	2,965,000	137,403,000
2004-05	133,202,000	3,946,000	2,018,000	139,166,000
2005-06	138,107,000	4,009,000	2,644,000	144,759,000
2006-07	139,209,000	3,393,000	3,508,000	146,110,000

n/a = not available.

[1] Expenditure by maintained schools on teaching staff includes all expenditure on salaries and wages consisting of gross pay, including bonuses and allowances, maternity pay and the employers contributions to national insurance and superannuation. This relates to all teachers (including supply teachers) paid within the scope of the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Act 1991/Education Act 2002. The figures for 2002-03 onwards also include the cost paid to an agency for teaching staff that have been brought in to cover teacher absence.

[2] Includes expenditure by all local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools in Kirklees local authority. However the figures for 2002-03 exclude any expenditure by local authority maintained nursery schools in Kirklees as expenditure by those schools was not collected in that year.

[3] 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the ODPM to the Section 52 form from the DfES. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) to schools and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. The change in sources is shown by the blank row.

[4] The calculation for 2002-03 onwards is broadly similar to the calculation in previous years. However, for some LAs, expenditure that had previously been attributed to the school sectors was reported within the central LA part of the form from 2002-03, and would therefore be excluded for 2002-03 onwards. However the exact amount of this is not quantifiable from existing sources.

[5] Spending in 1997-98 reflects the transfer of monies from local government to central government for the nursery vouchers scheme. These were returned to local government from 1998-99.

[6] The 1999-2000 figures reflect the return of GM schools to local authority maintenance.

[7] 2006-07 figures is subject to change by the local authority.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.
2. Cash terms figures are converted to 2006-07 prices using the October 2007 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) deflators.
3. Figures as reported by Kirklees local authority as at 7 November 2007.

Teachers: Vacancies

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time teacher vacancies there were in local authority maintained (i) primary, (ii) middle and (iii) upper schools in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [162597]

Jim Knight: Information on teacher vacancies is available for nursery/primary and secondary Schools. Middle schools are included within both these two phases, as deemed, and upper schools within the secondary figures but neither group can be identified separately.

The following table provides the number of full-time and part-time vacancies in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Suffolk local authority and England in each January since 2003.

Full-time[1] and part-time vacancy[2] numbers in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Suffolk local authority and England, in January 2003 to 2007

	Nursery and primary		Secondary	
January	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
Suffolk				
2003	6	—	17	—
2004	20	0	47	1
2005	16	3	7	6
2006	9	1	16	2
2007	6	1	31	5
England				
2003	1,114	—	2,050	—
2004	778	133	1,627	191
2005	743	134	1,553	201
2006	709	146	1,340	154
2007	658	101	1,214	151

[1] Advertised vacancies for full-time permanent appointments (or appointments of at least one term's duration). Includes vacancies being filled on a temporary basis of less than one term.

[2] Part time vacancies were not collected prior to 2004.

Source:
DCSF Annual 618g Survey

Teachers: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers working in English schools reside in Wales. [162504]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Truancy: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to reduce the levels of truancy in local education authority areas in Hampshire; and if he will make a statement. [162420]

Kevin Brennan: The Government are focused on driving down all unnecessary absence so that pupils get their full entitlement to education. I have asked every local authority to aim to reduce absence in all their schools to below 2002/03 average levels for similar schools; and to ensure that pupils who miss a fifth or more of the school year are brought back into education. We have targeted authorities such as Portsmouth and Hampshire for extra support to reduce persistent absence.

The support given to pupils and their families is focused on their individual circumstances and needs using multi-agency approaches, such as Targeted Youth Support and support for pupils with longer term and recurring illnesses, to address the underlying causes of the absence and, where appropriate, sanctions such as penalty notices and prosecutions.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which Minister in his Department is responsible for implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. [162169]

Jim Knight: The Minister for Children, Young People and Families, Beverley Hughes, is the Minister with responsibility for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Voluntary Schools: Faith Schools

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the future provision of voluntary aided faith primary schools. [162414]

Jim Knight: The Government are committed to a diverse system of schools driven by, and responsive to, parental needs and aspirations. We do not have targets for numbers of new faith schools, but we remain committed to supporting the establishment of new schools by a range of providers, including faith organisations, where local consultation has shown that this is what parents and the community want, and where this greater diversity will help to raise standards.

School place planning is the statutory responsibility of each local authority. The Secretary of State plays no part in this process.

If an authority wishes to make any changes to voluntary school provision they must work with the local diocese, and any other relevant school providers in the area, and publish statutory proposals.

Where the need for a new school has been identified, faith providers may enter their own proposals for a new voluntary aided school in response to a competition held by the local authority. Providers may also publish their own proposals to establish a new voluntary aided school, with the Secretary of State's consent, outside of a competition.

Decisions on statutory proposals are normally made by local authorities, except for proposals for a new school where the local authority is the proposer or has a role in the trust of a proposed trust school. Other proposals may be decided by the schools adjudicator if the local authority fails to decide proposals within two months or following an appeal by the bodies for which there is explicit provision in the relevant legislation.

When taking decisions on statutory proposals the local authority and schools adjudicator must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State. This guidance sets out a range of factors that must be considered including a requirement to consider the impact on the balance of denominational provision when deciding proposals to close a school with a religious character.

Young People: Literacy

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* 11-year-olds, *(b)* 13-year-olds and *(c)* 16-year-olds in London who were functionally illiterate in each of the last 12 years; and if he will make a statement. [162576]

Jim Knight: Improving standards of literacy is one of the Government's top priorities. Since 1997 the results achieved by 11-year-olds and 14-year-olds as measured by National Curriculum tests in English have risen dramatically. Provisional data for 2007 shows that 80 per cent. of 11-year-olds in England reached the expected level or above, an increase of 17 percentage points since 1997; and 74 per cent. of 14-year-olds reached the expected level or above, an increase of 17 percentage points since 1997.

We judge children's attainment at age 11, 14 and 16 through Key Stage tests and GCSEs. The tables show the proportion of pupils in London achieving the expected level for their age, but failing to meet the expected levels is not equivalent to functional illiteracy.

The table shows the proportion of pupils in London achieving the expected level (level 4) or above in Key Stage 2 English tests for each year since 1998[1].

[1] Local government boundary changes mean that comparisons before 1998 are not valid.

	Proportion of pupils
1998	64
1999	68
2000	73
2001	75
2002	74
2003	76
2004	77
2005	79
2006	80
2007	79

At age 11 (the end of Key Stage 2) the expected level of achievement is level 4. Provisional figures show that while 79 per cent. of 11-year-olds achieved at least level 4 in English in 2007, 93 per cent. achieved at least level 3. That means they can read a range of texts accurately and independently; and their writing is organised, legible and clear. Level 4 is a much more demanding standard—children achieving level 4 have literacy skills that mean they can access complex forms of language and complex ideas. They can use inferences and deduction and can locate and use ideas and information. Their writing in a range of forms is

lively and thoughtful. Their handwriting style is fluent, joined and legible. They use full stops, capital letters and question marks accurately and can use punctuation within a sentence. Of the 7 per cent. of children who do not achieve either level 3 or level 4, many have special and in some cases severe educational needs.

The following table shows the proportion of pupils in London achieving the expected level (level 5) or above in Key Stage 3 English tests for each year since 1998:

	Proportion of pupils
1998	62
1999	60
2000	61
2001	62
2002	64
2003	66
2004	70
2005	74
2006	73
2007	74

At age 14 (the end of Key Stage 3) the expected level of achievement is level 5. Pupils achieving level 5 are able to speak in ways which suit different situations. They show understanding of the different things they are reading and can explain how writers influence readers. They can write in different ways that are interesting to the reader, using different sentence structures, putting writing in paragraphs and using punctuation accurately.

The following table shows the proportion of pupils in London achieving five or more grades A*-C or equivalent, including GCSE English and mathematics for each year since 1998:

	Proportion of pupils
1998	32.4
1999	33.9
2000	35.1
2001	36.7
2002	38.5
2003	39.3
2004	41.0
2005	43.0
2006	45.6
2007	47.2

The provisional figures for 2007 show that 60 per cent. of pupils in England achieved at least Grade C in GCSE English. We do not publish disaggregated figures for GCSE subjects at local authority level.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 16 and 17 year olds are not at school, attending a full-time training course or in work. [162189]

Jim Knight: The following tables show participation in education, training and employment for 16 and 17-year-olds in 2006 (proportions and numbers).

Participation in education and training of 16 and 17-year-olds—males and females, England, end of calendar year 2006

	16	*17*	*Percentage 16 and 17 together*
Education and training			
Full-time education	78.1	65.0	71.5
Work Based Learning (WBL)	5.7	7.8	6.8
Of which WBL in full-time education	0.2	0.2	0.2
Of which WBL in part-time education	0.2	0.3	0.2
Employer Funded Training (EFT)	2.3	4.0	3.1
Of which part-time education	0.3	0.6	0.5
Other Education and Training (OET)[1]	3.9	4.9	4.4
Of which part-time education	3.3	4.2	3.8
Total education and WBL[2]	*87.2*	*77.5*	*82.4*
Total education and training[3]	*89.7*	*81.5*	*85.6*
Not in any education or training—in employment	3.9	9.0	6.4
Not in any education, employment or training (NEET)	6.5	9.5	8.0
Total not in any education or training (NET)[4]	*10.3*	*18.5*	*14.4*
All	100.0	100.0	100.0
Population (thousand)	662.3	659.5	1,321.8

	16	*17*	*Number 16 and 17 together*
Education and training			
Full-time education	516,900	428,600	945,500
Work Based Learning (WBL)	37,700	51,600	89,300
Of which WBL in full-time education	1,300	1,200	2,500
Of which WBL in part-time education	1,100	1,700	2,900
Employer Funded Training (EFT)	15,000	26,700	41,600
Of which part-time education	2,200	4,100	6,300
Other Education and Training (OET)[1]	25,600	32,000	57,600
Of which part-time education	22,100	27,900	50,000
Total Education and WBL[2]	*577,600*	*510,900*	*1,088,500*
Total Education and training[3]	*593,800*	*537,600*	*1,131,400*
Not in any education or training—in employment	25,600	59,300	84,900
Not in any education, employment or training (NEET)	42,800	62,700	105,500
Total not in any education or training (NET)[4]	*68,500*	*121,900*	*190,400*
All	662,300	659,500	1,321,800
Population (thousand)	662,300	659,500	1,321,800

[1] Includes part-time education not funded by employers or through WBL; also full- or part-time education in independent FE and HE institutions.
[2] Total of all full-time and part-time education and WBL (less WBL in full-time education), equivalent to local level estimates for education and training.
[3] Total of all full-time education and WBL (less WBL in full-time education) plus EFT and OET.
[4] The remainder of the age group.

HEALTH

NHS Dentistry

10. **Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the current level of access to NHS dentistry. [162939]

Ann Keen: The most recent access data are for the two-year period ending in March 2007. These data show that around 28 million people accessed NHS dental services at least once during this period. This is the same as the number who accessed services in the two years ending March 2006. We are committed to widening access to NHS dentistry, and will look to Primary Care Trusts to do this as part of their role as commissioners of health services.

15. **Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the level of access to NHS dentistry. [162944]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier.

18. **Mr. Don Foster:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of access to NHS dentistry. [162947]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier.

19. **Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve access to NHS dentistry. [162948]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier.

24. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on access to NHS dentistry. [162953]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier.

Emergency Treatment

11. **Lorely Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that patients requiring emergency care are taken to the nearest accident and emergency department. [162940]

Mr. Bradshaw: High quality, safe emergency care needs to deliver appropriate, timely care in the most appropriate setting. Patients are not always taken to the nearest accident and emergency department. Some may be treated at the scene, some taken to minor injury units or walk-in centres, and others may be taken directly to specialist units at other hospitals, receiving care on the way.

Health Spending

12. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the percentage change has been in health spending between 1996-97 and 2007; and what the percentage change in consultant finished case episodes has been over that period. [162941]

Mr. Bradshaw: Spending on the national health service rose by 91 per cent. in real terms between 1996-97 and 2007-08. The growth in finished consultant episodes over the same period was 31 per cent. (tbc).

NHS Trusts

13. **Dr. Richard Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to NHS trusts on the material and literature they make available to patients on their premises; and if he will make a statement. [162942]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Patient information is central to the overall quality of each patient's experience.

The Department has issued guidance to national health service trusts outlining good practice in the development of patient information.

However, information available to patients is the responsibility of local national health service organisations.

GP Service Provision

14. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had on out-of-hours GP service provision. [162943]

Mr. Bradshaw: None, but my officials regularly meet with a group of out-of-hours providers brought together by the NHS Alliance.

Maternity Services

16. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to recruit more midwives; and if he will make a statement. [162945]

Ann Keen: This year NHS organisations have been required to review maternity services, including an assessment of their workforce capacity. We expect some to identify the need to recruit additional midwives and a range of mechanisms are in place to support local recruitment, for example to enable midwives who are not practising to return to work in maternity services.

Sevenoaks Hospital

17. **Mr. Fallon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the beds closed at Sevenoaks Hospital to be re-opened. [162946]

Dawn Primarolo: The South East Coast Strategic Health Authority report that the West Kent Primary Care Trust intends to reopen the beds at Sevenoaks Hospital in a phased manner over the next 12 to 18 months.

Primary Care Trusts

20. **Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of primary care trusts that have fully implemented all National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines. [162949]

Dawn Primarolo: Performance in implementing National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) technology appraisals and clinical guidelines is included within the scope of the Healthcare Commission's Annual Health Check. The 2006-07 annual health check self-assessments, which have been subject to targeted and random inspections by the Healthcare Commission, show that 89 per cent. of national health service organisations assess themselves as conforming with NICE's technology appraisal guidance. 90 per cent. of national health service trusts have assessed themselves as making excellent, good or fair progress towards implementing NICE's clinical guidelines.

"Our NHS, Our Future" Initiative

21. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the implications for Greater London of the interim report arising from the "Our NHS, Our Future" initiative. [162930]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts in London have begun consultation on the vision set out in Lord Darzi's July report to NHS London which he made before he was appointed a Minister. The interim report of the NHS next stage review, published in October, begins to articulate an overarching vision for the future of the NHS across England, based on world-class quality services that are fair, personalised, effective and safe.

25. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the interim report arising from "Our NHS, Our Future". [162954]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the Secretary of State's statement of 10 October.

Drug Misuse

22. **Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of misuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs. [162951]

Dawn Primarolo: It is recognised that the misuse of both prescription and over the counter medicines is under reported and, as such, it is difficult to assess the scale of the problem. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) uses a variety of methods of collecting information on the safety of both prescription and over the counter medicines including concerns about misuse. In light of evidence of misuse, the MHRA has taken regulatory action for a number of medicines including paracetamol, codeine, co-proxamol and pseudoephedrine/ephedrine.

Horton General Hospital

23. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he next expects to visit the Horton general hospital in Banbury. [162952]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There are currently no plans by Ministers at the Department to visit Horton general hospital. However, invitations are considered on a case by case basis and depend upon diary pressures and parliamentary business. Therefore, if the hon. Member wishes to, he may send a formal request to Ministers.

Breast Cancer

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to reduce deaths caused by breast cancer since 1997. [164029]

Ann Keen: We have taken a number of steps to reduce deaths from breast cancer specifically.

Working in partnership, with Cancer Research UK, we produce the "Be Breast Aware" leaflet, advising women on the importance on being breast aware and knowing what signs or changes to look out for. Over a million copies of this leaflet are produced each year.

In September 2000 we published the NHS Cancer Plan, which introduced a number of targets and initiatives aimed specifically at breast cancer. These were:

the introduction of two-view mammography to improve detection rates,

extension of the screening age range to include women aged up to 70,

that there should be a maximum one month wait from diagnosis to treatment for breast cancer and a maximum two month wait from urgent general practitioner referral to treatment for breast cancer, and

a review of the Department's improving outcomes in breast cancer guidance by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

As well as updating the breast cancer guidance in August 2002, NICE has produced clinical guidelines for familial breast cancer and has issued appraisals on nine drugs to treat breast cancer, more than for any other cancer type, and is currently appraising a further two drugs.

We have also provided Section 64 funding to a number of breast cancer charities to improve awareness of breast cancer.

We are currently developing the Cancer Reform Strategy, which will set out the future direction of cancer services in England. We aim to publish by the end of the year.

In September, my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister announced proposals for cancer services including extending the breast cancer screening age range to women aged between 43 and 73 and a guaranteed appointment with a specialist within two weeks of referral for all patients with breast problems, not just those with suspected cancer.

Breast Cancer: Health Education

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to educate young women about the importance of diagnosing breast cancer at the early stages to improve survival rates. [164030]

Ann Keen: It is important for women of all ages to be breast aware. That is why together with Cancer Research UK the Department produces the "Be Breast Aware" leaflet, which advises women on the importance on being breast aware and what signs to watch for. Over a million copies of this leaflet are produced each year. It is also available online from both the NHS Choices and the NHS Cancer Screening Programme websites.

The leaflet is widely available from primary care surgeries and breast screening units and is available in Bengali, Chinese, Gurjarati, Polish, Punjabi, Urdu and Vietnamese.

It is important to note that breast cancer in young women is very rare, with over 80 per cent. of breast cancer cases occurring in women aged over 50 and only 4.9 per cent. in those aged under 40.

Breast Cancer: North East Region

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of women screened for breast cancer in *(a)* Gateshead, *(b)* Sunderland and *(c)* the North East in the last 12 months were being screened less than 36 months after a previous screening. [162256]

Ann Keen: Information is not available for the last 12 months. The following table outlines the current uptake of breast screenings in the North East strategic health authority area for the latest period that figures are available.

Breast screening programme: coverage of women aged 53-64[1] for the North East SHA, by Primary Care Organisation

As at 31 March 2006

			Eligible population[2]	*Number of women screened*	*Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (Percentage)*
England			3,633,181	2,756,716	75.9
North East SHA			188,399	147,306	78.2
	County Durham and Tees Valley		86,004	66,574	77.4
	5J9	Darlington	7,378	5,742	77.8
	5KA	Derwentside	6,562	4,904	74.7
	5KC	Durham and Chester-Le-Street	11,216	9,168	81.7
	5J8	Durham Dales	7,308	5,933	81.2
	5KD	Easington	6,985	5,529	79.2
	5D9	Hartlepool	6,467	4,500	69.6
	5KN	Langbaurgh	8,034	6,542	81.4
	5KM	Middlesbrough	11,689	8,188	70.0
	5E1	North Tees	12,987	10,649	82.0
	5KE	Sedgefield	7,378	5,419	73.4
	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear		102,395	80,732	78.8
	5KF	Gateshead	14,523	11,700	80.6
	5D7	Newcastle	15,187	11,119	73.2
	5D8	North Tyneside	15,215	11,979	78.7
	TAG	Northumberland Care Trust	26,800	21,365	79.7
	5KG	South Tyneside	10,713	8,586	80.1
	5KL	Sunderland Teaching	19,957	15,983	80.1

[1] The breast screening programme covers women aged 50-64 but it was extended to invite women aged 65-70 in April 2001. The last unit began inviting women in April 2006, full coverage to age 70 should be achieved by 2008-09. Until then coverage of the screening programme is best assessed using the 53-64 age group as women may be first called at any time between their 50th and 53rd birthday.
[2] This is the number of women in the resident population less those recorded as ineligible.
Source:
KC63

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of which groups are typically under-represented in the NHS routine breast cancer screening programme; and what steps he is taking to increase the uptake of routine breast cancer screening among these groups. [163287]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 8 November 2007]:* People who live in deprived areas are less likely to attend for screening. For example, for cultural and religious

reasons, women from minority ethnic groups are less likely to accept invitations for screening than the general population as a whole. Language and access to acceptable and meaningful information can also be a significant barrier and can affect coverage levels.

The national informed choice leaflet, Breast Screening: The Facts, which is sent out with every invitation for screening, has now been translated into 19 languages. In December 2003, National Health Service Cancer Screening Programmes published Inequalities of Access to Cancer Screening: A Literature Review. The recommendations in the review have been sent to all local screening programmes. It is for primary care trusts, in close collaboration with their local screening programmes and stakeholders, to decide how best to provide and promote breast screening services for their local populations.

On a national level, a paper on inequalities will be discussed by the United Kingdom National Screening Committee (NSC) at their next meeting on 20 November. The NSC will consider what future action should be taken to reduce inequalities in our screening programmes.

Inequalities in cancer screening are also being considered as part of the development of the new cancer reform strategy, which we hope to publish by the end of the year. An equality impact assessment will also be published alongside the strategy.

Cancer: Consultants

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many oncologists per capita there were in each strategic health authority area in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [163286]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The information requested is available in the following tables.

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): medical and dental staff working within medical oncology and clinical oncology specialties by strategic health authorities, England as at 30 September each year

Number (headcount)

		2000		2001		2002		2003	
		Clinical oncology	*Medical oncology*	*Clinical oncology*	*Medical oncology*	*Clinical oncology*	*Medical oncology*	*Clinical oncology*	*Medical oncology*
	England	711	404	776	435	785	504	803	596
Q30	North East Strategic Health Authority	44	11	48	10	44	20	45	21
Q31	North West Strategic Health Authority	84	52	93	58	89	66	88	77
Q32	Yorkshire & The Humber Strategic Health Authority	69	35	78	44	79	51	85	56
Q33	East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	52	18	56	15	60	15	62	16
Q34	West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	33	45	37	46	46	37	57	39
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	104	23	112	25	112	32	119	38
036	London Strategic Health Authority	137	144	161	155	154	175	134	226
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	27	24	30	22	29	31	40	32
Q38	South Central Strategic Health Authority	68	27	59	27	64	47	56	63
Q39	South West Strategic Health Authority	93	25	102	33	108	30	117	28

Number (headcount)

		2004		2005		2006	
		Clinical oncology	*Medical oncology*	*Clinical oncology*	*Medical oncology*	*Clinical oncology*	*Medical oncology*
	England	952	572	990	582	1,052	601
Q30	North East Strategic Health Authority	44	22	53	19	48	22
Q31	North West Strategic Health Authority	96	60	101	68	106	73

Number (headcount)

		2004		2005		2006	
		Clinical oncology	*Medical oncology*	*Clinical oncology*	*Medical oncology*	*Clinical oncology*	*Medical oncology*
Q32	Yorkshire & The Humber Strategic Health Authority	107	48	118	43	112	65
Q33	East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	74	15	78	11	86	17
Q34	West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	72	46	64	52	63	61
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	137	39	131	43	150	52
036	London Strategic Health Authority	199	214	225	207	229	210
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	41	38	42	51	52	35
Q38	South Central Strategic Health Authority	64	50	62	41	77	29
Q39	South West Strategic Health Authority	118	40	116	47	129	37

Number (headcount) per 100,000 population

		2000		2001		2002		2003	
		Clinical oncology	*Medical oncology*	*Clinical oncology*	*Medical oncology*	*Clinical oncology*	*Medical oncology*	*Clinical oncology*	*Medical oncology*
	England	1.4	0.8	1.6	0.9	1.6	1.0	1.6	1.2
Q30	North East Strategic Health Authority	1.7	0.4	1.9	0.4	1.7	0.8	1.8	0.8
Q31	North West Strategic Health Authority	1.2	0.8	1.4	0.9	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.1
Q32	Yorkshire & The Humber Strategic Health Authority	1.4	0.7	1.6	0.9	1.6	1.0	1.7	1.1
Q33	East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	1.2	0.4	1.3	0.4	1.4	0.4	1.5	0.4
Q34	West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.1	0.7
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	1.9	0.4	2.1	0.5	2.1	0.6	2.2	0.7
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.4	1.8	3.1
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.8
Q38	South Central Strategic Health Authority	1.8	0.7	1.5	0.7	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.6
Q39	South West Strategic Health Authority	1.9	0.5	2.1	0.7	2.2	0.6	2.3	0.6

Number (headcount) per 100,000 population

		2004		2005		2006	
		Clinical oncology	*Medical oncology*	*Clinical oncology*	*Medical oncology*	*Clinical oncology*	*Medical oncology*
	England	1.9	1.1	2.0	1.2	2.1	1.2
Q30	North East Strategic Health Authority	1.7	0.9	2.1	0.7	1.9	0.9
Q31	North West Strategic Health Authority	1.4	0.9	1.5	1.0	1.5	1.1
Q32	Yorkshire & The Humber Strategic Health Authority	2.1	0.9	2.3	0.8	2.2	1.3
033	East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	1.7	0.3	1.8	0.3	2.0	0.4

Number (headcount) per 100,000 population

		2004		2005		2006	
		Clinical oncology	Medical oncology	Clinical oncology	Medical oncology	Clinical oncology	Medical oncology
Q34	West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	1.4	0.9	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.1
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	2.5	0.7	2.4	0.8	2.7	0.9
036	London Strategic Health Authority	2.7	2.9	3.0	2.8	3.0	2.8
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.2	0.8
038	South Central Strategic Health Authority	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.0	1.9	0.7
Q39	South West Strategic Health Authority	2.3	0.8	2.3	0.9	2.5	0.7

Source: The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census. Mid 2007 Resident Population Estimate (2001 Census Based), Office for National Statistics.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many GPs have received specialist training on chronic fatigue syndrome; [163142]

(2) what the average number of GP visits made by patients was before being diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome over the last five years; [163143]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to develop statistical and qualitative data on the life experiences and employment histories of people suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome; [163144]

(4) how many specialist care and treatment facilities for chronic fatigue syndrome are provided by the NHS in each region. [163145]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of general practitioners (GPs) who have received specialist training for chronic fatigue syndrome is not collected.

Information on the average number of GP visits made by patients before being diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome is not collected.

We have no plans to develop such statistical and qualitative data.

The number of specialist care and treatment facilities for chronic fatigue syndrome is not collected centrally.

Children: Abuse

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish guidelines on therapeutic and preventative interventions to be made available for children who have *(a)* been abused and *(b)* abused others. [163158]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 12 November 2007]*: The joint Department of Health and National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE) Victims of Violence and Abuse Prevention programme (Vrapp) are developing National Service Guidelines on therapeutic and preventive interventions for—child victims of domestic violence;

child victims of sexual abuse; and

children who have been exploited through prostitution pornography and trafficking.

The Vrapp National Service Guidelines will also include therapeutic and preventive interventions for:

young people who sexually abuse; and

young people who are perpetrators of domestic violence.

These guidelines are based on research that has been conducted and reviewed by the Vrapp programme and will be published by April 2008.

Dental Services: Conditions of Employment

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the conclusions of the review of the outcome of the first year of operation of the new dentists' contracts. [163174]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 12 November 2007]*: The Department published its report on the first year of the dental reforms on 7 August 2007. The report 'NHS Dental Reforms: One year on' is available in the Library, and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_077238

Departmental Bodies

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list all task forces and steering groups being run by his Department. [162251]

Mr. Bradshaw: In a survey carried out in autumn 2006, the Department identified over 200 working groups, which engaged stakeholders in working with the Department on policy, strategy and delivery. Such working groups, including task forces and steering groups are set up by the Department's policy sections as needed and disbanded when no longer required.

Departmental Policy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the presentation entitled Policy Costing Overview given at the Financial Management and Steering Group meeting on 23 March, *(a)* where the areas of good practice on policy costing that already existed were and *(b)* which areas were identified at this stage in which policy makers needed additional help to improve their forecasting of financial impacts. [162244]

Mr. Bradshaw: The areas of good practice in policy costing and areas where additional help was needed have varied across the Department. The Policy Costing Handbook has sought to raise the consistency and standard.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's Policy Appraisal and Health document, dated November 2004. [162772]

Mr. Bradshaw: A copy of the Department's Policy Appraisal and Health Document dated November 2004 has been placed in the Library. The document can also be found at the following website:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_4095414.pdf

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the presentation entitled Policy Costing Overview given at the Financial Management and Steering Group meeting on 23 March, what independent financial challenge function existed within his Department prior to this date. [162827]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Revenue Investment Branch was formed in April 2006 to provide an independent revenue challenge function through a dedicated team.

Departmental Restructuring

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what action points his Department intends to adopt to address the seven challenges identified as part of the Department's restructuring exercise given at the presentation to the Financial Management and Reporting Steering Group meeting on 23 March 2007; [162760]

(2) with reference to the presentation entitled Policy Costing Overview given at the Financial Management and Steering Group meeting on 23 March, what steps his Department has taken to make progress in each of the six areas identified as improvement objectives; what specific problems had been identified in each of these six areas; and how he is monitoring the progress made in each of these six areas. [162826]

Mr. Bradshaw: Action was taken during 2006 on the seven challenges identified in January 2006 in the Department's restructuring exercise. This was summarised in chapter 11 of the Department's departmental report 2007 and included:

development of the new Policy and Strategy Directorate;

action to strengthen the challenge role of finance, including appointments to new posts of group and business finance controllers in support of the Director General, Finance and Investment;

creation of new Directorates for Commissioning and for Provider Development;

appointment of a Director General for Social Care, to lead a new directorate;

expanded membership for the Departmental Management Board (DMB), and development of a new structure of board committees, to strengthen corporate governance; and

new and stronger corporate support arrangements for the Department, based on a business partnering model.

Further changes to the Department's top structure have been made in 2007 consequent on the decision to split the Department's permanent secretary and NHS chief executive roles and to clarify lines of accountability and responsibility. Action on the six areas for business improvement identified in 2006-07 continued into 2007-08, as set out in the Department's business plan published in March 2007.

The Department's recent capability review has highlighted the areas that need further attention. The Department has set out its action plan, including timed deliverables and metrics, in the development plan published by the permanent secretary in September 2007. The departmental board will monitor progress against the plan, and will keep Ministers informed.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will break down the figures referred to in the answer of 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 550W, on Departments: official hospitality, to give the amounts spent on each function at which hospitality expenses were incurred. [162190]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Diabetes: Eastern Region

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with diabetes in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk in each of the last five years. [162596]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows data on the numbers of patients on diabetes registers in general practices available from the Quality and Outcomes Framework data but only for the financial years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

	2006-07		*2005-06*		*2004-05*	
	Patients	*Identified prevalence (percentage)*	*Patients*	*Identified prevalence (percentage)*	*Patients*	*Identified prevalence (percentage)*
East of England SHA	202,796	3.5	—	—	—	—
Suffolk PCT	20,590	3.4	—	—	—	—
East of England SHA	—	—	194,917	3.4	181,928	3.2
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	—	—	80,190	3.5	75,633	3.3
Essex	—	—	58,110	3.4	53,107	3.1
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	—	—	56,617	3.2	53,188	3.1
Suffolk PCT Total	—	—	19,755	3.3	18,491	3.2
Central Suffolk	—	—	3,398	3.3	3,220	3.1
Ipswich	—	—	5,023	3.3	4,714	3.1
Suffolk Coastal	—	—	3,473	3.4	3,103	3.2

	2006-07		2005-06		2004-05	
	Patients	Identified prevalence (percentage)	Patients	Identified prevalence (percentage)	Patients	Identified prevalence (percentage)
Suffolk West	—	—	7,861	3.4	7,454	3.2

Notes:
1. Due to changes in strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) configurations, and the fact that East of England SHA and Suffolk PCT only came into existence in 2006, the figures quoted for 2005-06 and 2004-05 were originally for the old SHAs (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, Essex and Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire) and PCTs (Central Suffolk, Ipswich, Suffolk Coastal and Suffolk West) that were in existence at the time which have been summed to give figures for the new bodies.
2. Diabetes Prevalence The disease register in QOF for diabetes does not include any patient below the age of 17. However the denominator is all registered patients. This means that the reported prevalence is lower than the actual value.
3. Coverage of QOF—Patients will only contribute to the figures in QOF if they are registered with a general practice participating in QOF. Not all practices participate in QOF and some participate in only some parts (especially Primary Medical Service practices who are paid under different arrangements for providing services which are part of QOF for general medical service practices). Most indicators in QOF have rules which allow for patients to be excluded (e.g. patient refuses treatment) and so the denominator for a given indicator may be less than the number of patients on the register for that disease. Note also that some indicators have age limits and so exclude some patients on the register.

Source:
Information Centre.

Doctors: Careers Structure

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether any changes have been made to the *(a)* terms and *(b)* value of the Medical Training Application Service contract with Methods Consulting Ltd in light of the alterations to the scope of the project since the security breaches earlier in 2007; and whether any compensation has been paid by Methods Consulting Ltd in respect of breach of contract conditions; [163172]

(2) what the cost has been of the Medical Training Application System, including *(a)* its implementation, *(b)* the remedial action taken and *(c)* the reviews which were commissioned on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [163173]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The total cost of the Medical Training Application System (MTAS), including set up, was £1.9 million in 2006-07. The estimated cost of the system over five years is £6.3 million.

There is a continuing and ongoing need for this service. For instance, it is being used by Deaneries to track offers. The supplier has made appropriate changes to the security arrangements at their own expense.

The Modernising Medical Careers team has worked closely with the MTAS suppliers, Methods, to ensure that previous problems have been appropriately managed.

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Trust: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will inquire into the reasons for the maintenance craft workers at Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS Trust taking strike action on 5 November. [162272]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The resolution of local disputes is a matter for the NHS organisation concerned.

Eyesight: Testing

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pensioners in Huddersfield have had free eye tests since 1 April 1999. [162165]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. Information on persons aged 60 and over will be available at primary care trust level in the publication "General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales: April 2007-September 2007". This will be published by March 2008.

The total number of national health service sight tests paid for in England for persons aged 60 and over for the years ending 31 March 2005-07 are included in the following table. These are taken from reports published by the Information Centre for health and social care (IC) and are counts of patients who cited their age as being 60 or over as the reason for being entitled to a free eye test. Information for the year ending 31 March 2005 is the earliest data published by the IC.

Total number of NHS sight tests paid for in England for persons aged 60 and over in the specified years ending 31 March

	Number
2005	4,303,128
2006	4,450,007
2007	4,518,672

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care

The 2007 report "General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales year ending 31 March 2006" is available in the Library. The 2005 and 2006 reports, "General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales October 2004—March 2005 and year ending 31 March 2005", are available in the Library.

Genetics

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish Dr. Harper's review of the 2003 Genetics White Paper. [164035]

Ann Keen: Work on the Review of the Genetics White Paper "Our inheritance. Our Future—realising the potential of genetics in the NHS" (2003) is in its final stages. The review process has involved consultation with key stakeholders with an interest in genetics in healthcare, and their views and comments will be reflected in the report of the review when it is published shortly. While the review has been progressing, our continuing commitment to improving genetics services in the national health service has led to the renewal of several contracts, including those with the National Genetics Reference Laboratories and the National Genetics Education and Development Centre as well as continued commitments to the ongoing funding of additional scientific trainer and trainee posts in the NHS.

Health Professions: Huddersfield

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses and *(c)* other health service staff were employed in Huddersfield constituency (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the most recent date for which figures are available. [162545]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the requested format. Staff numbers for the relevant national health service organisations is set out in the following table:

	30 September 1997		*30 September 2006*	
	Calderdale Healthcare NHS Trust	*Huddersfield NHS Trust*	*Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust*	*Kirklees Primary Care Trust*
Total hospital and community health services NHS staff	2,911	3,444	5,495	1,367
Medical and dental staff	179	185	487	22
Total non-medical staff	2,798	3,259	5,008	1,345
Professionally qualified clinical staff	1,397	1,606	2,504	719
Support to clinical staff	875	940	1,729	229
Infrastructure support	526	711	773	397
Other	0	2	2	0

Note:
In 2001 Calderdale Healthcare NHS Trust and Huddersfield NHS Trust merged to form the Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust and hospital and community health service staff in Kirklees PCT. The organisations listed are those covering the Huddersfield area in the specified years. Due to restructuring in the NHS, it is not possible to say categorically that these figures are directly comparable. There were 262 general practitioners and 179 practice nurses recorded as working for Kirklees PCT in 2006. In 1997 these staff would have been recorded in Calderdale and Kirklees Health Authority, and it is not possible to break down their data to identify Kirklees alone.
Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census and The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

Heart Diseases: Health Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will instruct the Myocardial Infarction Audit Project to investigate the impact of centralising services for heart attack treatment on patient outcomes. [162807]

Ann Keen: The Myocardial Infarction National Audit Project (MINAP) database is linked to the Office of National Statistics data on mortality and is therefore able to provide analyses of patient outcomes as and when required.

A more comprehensive assessment of the impact of centralising services for heart attack treatment will be provided by the results of a feasibility study which the Department is conducting jointly with the British Cardiac Vascular Society into extending the provision of specialist primary angioplasty services for treatment of heart attack. A report on interim findings from the study is due shortly and a final report during 2008.

Hospital Beds: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to increase the availability of hospital beds in the West Midlands since 1997. [162788]

Dawn Primarolo: It is for the national health service locally to make decisions on bed numbers and occupancy rates. The Department expects NHS trusts to ensure that there are sufficient beds available to react to changing local circumstances, such as local demand and staff availability and thereby ensure the delivery of a safe and flexible service.

Hospitals: Milk

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS hospitals store mother's milk to feed children other than those of the donors; what the cost of such collection and storage is; upon whose authority in each case the decision whether or not to form a storage bank is made; and if he will make a statement. [162399]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The following NHS hospitals store mother's milk.

Huddersfield Royal Infirmary
Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital
Addenbrooke's NHS Trust
Princess Royal University Hospital
Medway Maritime Hospital
Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Trust
King's College Hospital
John Radcliffe Hospital
Princess Anne Hospital
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospital NHS Trust
St. George's Hospital
Kingston Hospital
Countess of Chester Hospital
Clatterbridge Hospital
Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Information on the cost of storage and collection is not collected centrally. Decisions on whether or not to form a storage bank are made locally. The United Kingdom (UK) Association of Milk Banks (UKAMB) has produced "Guidelines for the establishment and operation of Human Milk Banks" in the UK which should be taken into account in any discussions. The UKAMB exists to provide a forum for the exchange of information about milk banking. It also recommends standards for the practice of milk banking.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust: Clostridium

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the findings of the Healthcare Commission's investigation into outbreaks of *clostridium difficile* at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust between April 2004 and September 2006. [163594]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* We take the findings of the Healthcare Commission's investigation into the outbreaks of *clostridium difficile* at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust very seriously. The Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) made a statement to the House on 15 October 2007, *Official Report,* columns 49-50WS, about *C difficile* and, specifically, the Healthcare Commission report.

The trust, working with its primary care trusts and strategic health authorities, have been focussing on improving their performance on healthcare associated infection (HCAI). The Healthcare Commission is working with the trust to put in place an action plan to address the recommendations in the report. We expect the new management of the trust to implement all of the measures which have been put into place to tackle HCAI and to meet the new public service agreement target to reduce *clostridium difficile* infections by 30 per cent. by March 2011.

The National Health Service Chief Executive wrote to every NHS trust with a copy of the report, to ensure that all NHS organisations take account of the Healthcare Commission's findings in their local plans and to reconfirm that the drive to improve infection control is a top priority for the NHS.

We have made it clear through the code of practice for the prevention and control of HCAIs, introduced in October 2006, that we expect the NHS to implement effective infection control policy and procedures. In addition, Secretary of State set out our response to the five national recommendations in the statement on 15 October.

Mental Health Services: Huddersfield

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health workers were employed to deal with people with mental health problems in Huddersfield *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the most recent date for which figures are available. [162544]

Ann Keen: The information is not collected in the requested format. In 2002, mental health services from Dewsbury Healthcare NHS Trust, Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust and Wakefield and Pontefract Community Health NHS Trust merged to form the South West Yorkshire Mental Health NHS Trust. It is not possible to provide the specific numbers of staff in each unit who left to form the new organisation.

As of 30 September 2006, the South West Yorkshire Mental Health NHS Trust employed 1,672 staff to deal with people with mental health problems, of whom 1,105 were professionally qualified clinical staff and 567 were support for clinical staff.

Methyl Methacrylate: Health Hazards

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints have been received by the Health Protection Agency of ill-effects from the use of methyl methacrylate in nail bars in each of the last three years to *(a)* consumers and *(b)* employees. [161936]

Dawn Primarolo: The Health Protection Agency has no record of any complaints received of ill effects from the use of methyl methacrylate in nail bars in any of the last three years to consumers and employees.

Milton Keynes Hospital: Cleaning Services

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when Milton Keynes Hospital is expected to receive its deep clean. [162781]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* As the Prime Minister made clear, deep cleaning will occur in all hospitals, starting this winter, with resources allocated through the strategic health authorities (SHAs). All trusts will submit costed deep clean plans to their lead commissioners who will monitor performance against this plan, as per normal performance management arrangements, and SHAs will take an overview as to progress across their area by the end of the financial year.

Information on plans of individual trusts is therefore not routinely collected centrally by the Department.

MRSA

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to minimise the spread of the PVL strain of MRSA at NHS hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [162068]

Ann Keen: Good infection control practice is important for control of Panton-Valentine Leukocidine (PVL) producing strains of *Staphylococcus aureus*.

In addition, specific interim guidance on diagnosis and management of PVL-associated Staphylococcal infections in the United Kingdom developed was published on the Department's website in April 2006. This is available at:

www/dh/gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartmentLeaders/ChiefMedicalOfficer/Features/DH_4133761

We have asked the Health Protection Agency to review and update this and a revised version will be available shortly.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimates he has made of *(a)* the incidence of those carrying MRSA, *(b)* the number of those infected following operations, *(c)* the incidence of MRSA septicaemia and *(d)* deaths attributable to MRSA within the private hospital system. [162364]

Ann Keen: These data are not collected centrally and we do not produce estimates of infections in private hospital.

The Office for National Statistics produces annual reports into deaths involving methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). The last report as published

in HSQ 33 in February 2007 and included data for 2005. The reports include information on 'place of death'. The place an individual dies may not be the same place as where an infection was first contracted.

In England and Wales, between 2001 and 2005, 17 death certificates from persons who died in non-national health service general hospitals mentioned MRSA.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to ensure that payments made to strategic health authorities to reverse the resource accounting and budgeting deductions applied to NHS trusts in 2006-07 have been passed on to the trusts that faced these deductions. [162830]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department ensured that payments were made by strategic health authorities (SHAs) to national health service trusts reversing resource accounting and budgeting deductions, by requiring that the payments were separately identified in the monthly financial monitoring returns from SHAs.

NHS: Manpower

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people who work for the NHS in England reside in Wales. [162496]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* This information is not collected centrally.

Nutrition: Water

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department supports the World Health Organisation definition of water as an important nutrient. [161884]

Dawn Primarolo: The United Kingdom Government agree with the World Health Organization that water is critical to human life.

In temperate climates, such as the UK, the Government advise that six to eight glasses (about 1.2 litres) of water, or other fluids, should be consumed every day to prevent dehydration. This amount should be increased when the weather is warm or when exercising. Fluid intake is also achieved through food eaten.

The Government have commissioned no specific research on the health effects of drinking water but keeps abreast of research in this area.

Ovarian Cancer: Screening

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by the trial for ovarian cancer screening; what the expected completion date of this trial is; and if he will make a statement. [164033]

Dawn Primarolo: The United Kingdom Collaborative Trial of Ovarian Cancer Screening is a large randomised controlled trial that aims to assess the impact of two screening strategies in the general population. It will involve 200,000 post-menopausal women aged 50-74. The trial is jointly funded by the Medical Research Council, Cancer Research UK, and the national health service research and development programme. The trial is progressing and is expected to be completed in November 2012.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to review *(a)* the level of prescription charges and *(b)* the long-term conditions which allow exemption from prescription charges. [164062]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government review the level of prescription charges annually.

The Government's current review of prescription charges will be inviting views later this autumn on possible options for changes to prescription charges that are cost neutral to the national health service.

Primary Care Trusts: Finance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the costs borne by primary care trusts for providing dental care are taken into account in the funding provided by his Department. [163007]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* Primary Care trusts (PCTs) assumed responsibility for commissioning all elements of primary dental care services from 1 April 2006. PCTs were awarded devolved primary dental service funding allocations from that date. Individual funding allocations were based on the level of dental activity and costs observed in each area in the 12 month period October 2004 to September 2005, with appropriate additions to absorb subsequent annual contract value upratings, previously agreed service developments, and expected changes associated with the new ways of working fostered by the new contract terms available to dentists. These allocations were planned to allow PCTs to honour the commitment to offer all serving dentists new contracts at their previous levels of national health service earnings in return for maintaining their levels of NHS commitment, and provide a stable base from which PCTs could plan the further development of dental services using the flexibilities offered by the new contract to make the most effective use of dental resources. PCTs are also free to supplement provision for dentistry from within their total NHS resources if they consider this an appropriate local priority. Based on PCTs' initial devolved dental allocations, NHS net expenditure on primary care dental services in 2006-07, after taking account of the contribution from patient charges, was over £400 million higher than in 2003-04, an increase of 30 per cent.

Radiotherapy

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many linear accelerators operating in England are more than 10 years old; and if he will make a statement. [163288]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* As at July 2007 there were 22 machines installed in the national health service over 10 years old. Of these, 14 were awaiting delivery of replacement machines awarded under central programmes to purchase new and replacement equipment and facilities to provide better access to services. The remaining eight have been replaced via the central programmes but the trusts decided to retain their older machines in addition to meet local needs.

We do not hold information on whether these older machines are in routine clinical use. Some of these machines may be used for clinical research, training purposes or used as back up when another machine requires maintenance.

Social Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clients were placed by *(a)* English social services departments in Wales and *(b)* Welsh social services departments in England, in each of the last five years. [162501]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* Information about the activities of English social services departments is not collected centrally.

Information about the activities of Welsh social services departments is the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly.

TREASURY

Banks: Debts

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what additional measures he has put in place to ensure full disclosure of bad debts in the *(a)* retail and *(b)* wholesale banking sector in the last 12 months. [162035]

Kitty Ussher: Disclosures by companies are governed by accounting standards. Compliance with the relevant accounting standards (for example, those promulgated by the Accounting Standards Board or the International Accounting Standards Board) is needed if a company's accounts are to provide the required true and fair view. International Financial Reporting Standard 7 was brought into UK GAAP as Financial Reporting Standard 29 in 2007. This does not specifically cover bad debts but it requires disclosure of the significance of financial instruments for an entity's financial position and financial performance, plus quantitative and qualitative information about exposure to risks arising from financial instruments.

Childbirth

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes in the prevalence of multiple births in England have taken place in the last 10 years. [163274]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your request for information on changes in the prevalence of multiple births in England in the last 10 years. (163274)

The latest year for which data are available is 2005. The table below shows the multiple maternity rates for mothers usually resident in England—this is the number of maternities with multiple births per 1,000 total maternities in that year.

Multiple maternity rate for mothers usually resident in England (multiple maternities per 1,000 maternities), 1996-2005

	Maternities with multiple births per 1,000 maternities
1996	13.8
1997	14.5
1998	14.4
1999	14.4
2000	14.7
2001	14.8
2002	15.0
2003	14.9
2004	15.1
2005	15.0

Note:
Figures include maternities where live births and/or stillbirths occurred.

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many births there were in England in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the age of the mother at the time of birth. [163275]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your request for information on how many births there were in England in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the age of the mother at the time of the birth. (163275)

The latest year for which data are available is 2005. The attached table provides data on live births to mothers usually resident in England by single year of age from 1996 to 2005.

Live births to mothers usually resident in England, by age, 1996-2005

	1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Under 15	264	269	271	247	268	279	255	208	203	195
15	1,218	1,207	1,156	1,125	1,107	1,061	999	969	951	907
16	4,152	4,140	3,916	3,791	3,539	3,436	3,349	3,390	3,418	3,264
17	8,690	9,091	9,229	8,683	8,232	7,956	7,989	8,096	8,182	8,074
18	11,885	12,995	13,491	13,572	12,685	12,162	12,082	12,470	12,701	12,457
19	15,188	15,301	16,694	17,472	16,696	16,116	15,823	16,150	16,463	16,826
20	18,246	17,557	17,539	18,873	18,887	18,928	18,190	18,548	19,274	19,628

Live births to mothers usually resident in England, by age, 1996-2005

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
21	20,187	19,556	18,661	18,815	19,376	20,274	20,296	20,423	20,831	21,007
22	23,049	21,636	21,065	19,994	19,457	20,636	21,856	22,228	22,757	22,798
23	26,213	24,295	22,995	22,042	20,579	20,732	21,945	24,052	24,648	24,682
24	30,116	28,115	26,202	24,414	23,023	21,742	22,014	24,354	26,311	26,767
25	35,212	32,099	29,691	27,489	25,805	24,402	23,839	24,782	27,401	29,089
26	37,546	37,056	34,209	31,510	28,875	27,345	26,307	26,768	27,535	29,906
27	40,772	38,608	38,191	35,400	31,978	30,202	29,162	29,690	29,296	30,296
28	42,566	41,452	39,356	38,568	35,922	33,036	31,611	32,461	32,367	31,902
29	43,418	42,343	41,240	39,230	38,869	36,477	34,551	35,072	35,067	34,704
30	43,017	42,074	41,566	40,226	38,278	38,406	37,326	37,035	36,714	36,156
31	40,821	39,859	39,505	38,560	37,606	36,987	37,798	38,360	38,450	37,726
32	36,459	36,949	37,083	36,157	35,312	35,234	35,345	37,938	37,877	36,640
33	31,198	32,534	32,908	32,770	31,958	31,683	32,393	34,094	36,611	35,672
34	26,044	27,264	28,695	29,104	28,639	28,278	29,376	31,112	32,030	33,347
35	21,042	22,628	23,828	24,373	24,794	24,976	25,484	27,044	28,307	28,635
36	16,731	17,831	18,786	19,416	20,513	20,619	21,341	22,536	23,725	24,133
37	12,462	13,666	14,439	14,843	15,800	16,339	17,137	18,505	19,331	19,678
38	9,379	10,069	10,593	11,040	11,630	12,070	13,107	14,450	15,142	15,282
39	6,779	7,250	7,799	8,147	8,594	8,800	9,552	10,805	11,529	11,935
40	4,583	4,936	5,240	5,502	5,764	6,347	6,622	7,389	7,992	8,405
41	2,971	3,193	3,440	3,526	3,808	3,956	4,289	4,791	5,229	5,516
42	1,843	1,961	2,015	2,106	2,269	2,462	2,640	2,850	3,193	3,379
43	1,022	1,105	1,129	1,243	1,284	1,370	1,431	1,645	1,750	1,942
44	547	607	626	616	648	709	743	803	963	1,030
45+	564	556	553	608	631	724	857	833	936	1,050
Total	614,184	608,202	602,111	589,468	572,826	563,744	565,709	589,851	607,184	613,028

Death: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths there were in *(a)* Bexley and *(b)* Greater London as a result of diabetes in each of the last five years for which information is available. [162071]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths there were in (a) Bexley and (b) Greater London as a result of diabetes in each of the last five years for which information is available. (162071)

The attached table provides the number of deaths where diabetes (i) was the underlying cause of death and (ii) was mentioned on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributing factor, in (a) the London Borough of Bexley and (c) Greater London, for 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths from diabetes[1,2] London borough of Bexley and Greater London[3], 2002-06[4]

Deaths (persons)

	London borough of Bexley		Greater London	
	(i) Underlying cause	(ii) Any mention	(i) Underlying cause	(ii) Any mention
2002	16	71	721	2,565
2003	18	89	684	2,614
2004	16	80	622	2,424
2005	13	91	565	2,645
2006	14	110	546	2,687

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E10-E14 (diabetes mellitus).
[2] Figures shown as 'any mention' (column ii) include those where diabetes was recorded as the underlying cause (column i).
[3] Based on boundaries as of 2007.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths there were in *(a)* Bexley and *(b)* Greater London as a result of being (i) overweight and (ii) underweight in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [162073]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths there were in (a) Bexley, (b) Greater London as a result of being (i) overweight and (ii) underweight in each of the last five years for which information is available. (162073)

The terms 'overweight' and 'underweight' are not normally used in the registration of deaths. Consequently, figures can only be provided for deaths recorded using the medically recognised terms 'obesity' and 'malnutrition' or 'effects of hunger'. The number of deaths so recorded is unlikely to be a complete or accurate reflection of the actual numbers of deaths which result, directly or indirectly, from being overweight or underweight.

The attached tables provide the numbers of deaths where (i) obesity and (ii) malnutrition or effects of hunger were mentioned on the death certificate, for (a) the London Borough of Bexley and (b) Greater London, for the years 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths from obesity,[1] London borough of Bexley, Greater London[2], 2002-06[3]

	Deaths (persons)	
	Bexley	Greater London
2002	1	61
2003	2	70
2004	3	73
2005	2	69
2006	4	87

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code E66 (obesity). Deaths were included where this cause was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Number of deaths from malnutrition and effects of hunger,[1] London borough of Bexley, Greater London[2], 2002-06[3]

	Deaths (persons)	
	Bexley	Greater London
2002	0	22
2003	0	27
2004	0	17
2005	1	16
2006	2	25

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 (malnutrition) and T73.0 (effects of hunger). Deaths were included where one of these causes was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on official hospitality in 2007-08. [162794]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury's spending on official hospitality for the first seven months of 2007-08 is £14,000. All expenditure, including that on hospitality, has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many reports have been made to his Department's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised Civil Service Code since its publication on 6 June 2006; [162444]

(2) how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to his Department by departmental staff since 6 June 2006; [162445]

(3) when his Department's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised Civil Service Code. [162446]

Angela Eagle: None. The Department's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed in autumn 2006.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil servants in his Department *(a)* transferred to other Government departments and *(b)* left the Civil Service in each of the last five years. [162730]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many civil servants in departments *(a)* transferred to other Government departments and *(b)* left the Civil Service in each of the last five years. (162730)

Statistics on employees leaving the Civil Service are published as part of the annual Civil Service Statistics publication. The latest published statistics are for 2006.

Statistics on civil servants transferring between departments are not published. In order to provide information on transfers out to other departments, an ad hoc analysis has been required. This analysis is based on the Mandate survey which currently provides approximately 90 per cent. coverage of Civil Service departments and agencies. A breakdown by department has been provided for the latest year. For earlier years, only a total for the Civil Service could be provided.

Civil Service—leavers by department and gender—permanent headcount

Year	Table
2002	Table I (no breakdown by department available) http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/documents/pdf/stats/css02.pdf
2003	Table AK—http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/documents/xls/statistics/stats_report_2003/diversity_tables/table_ak.xls
2004	Table AK—http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/documents/xls/statistics/stats_report_2004/entrants_and_leavers/Table%20AK%20-%20final.xls
2005	Table AJ—http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/documents/xls/statistics/stats_report_2005/2005table_aj.xls
2006	Table W—http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/CivilService2006TablesandCharts.xls

Transfers to other Government departments—permanent headcount year to 30 September 2006

Department	Transfers to other Government Departments
Attorney General's Departments	
Crown Prosecution Service	30
Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	10
Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers	*
Serious Fraud Office	—
Treasury Solicitor	30
Cabinet Office	
Cabinet Office (excl. agencies)	—
Central Office of Information	—
Privy Council Office	—
Parliamentary Counsel Office	—
HM Treasury	
HM Treasury	40
Chancellor's other departments	
Debt Management Office	—
Government Actuary's Department	10

Transfers to other Government departments—permanent headcount year to 30 September 2006

Department	Transfers to other Government Departments
National Savings and Investments	—
Office of Government Commerce	—
OGCbuying.solutions	—
Office for National Statistics	70
Royal Mint	•
HM Revenue and Customs	
Former Inland Revenue	•
Former Customs and Excise	—
Valuation Office	10
Charity Commission	
Charity Commission	10
Communities and Local Government	
Department for Communities and Local Government (excl. agencies)	110
Fire Service College	—
Ordnance Survey	•
Planning Inspectorate	•
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	—
Constitutional Affairs	
Department of Constitutional Affairs (excl. agencies)	—
HM Courts Service	—
Land Registry	10
National Archives	—
Public Guardianship Office	—
Tribunals Service	—
Scotland Office	—
Wales Office	—
Culture, Media and Sport	
Department for Culture Media and Sport	10
Royal Parks	0
Defence	
Ministry of Defence (including Royal Fleet Auxiliary)	200
Army Base Repair Organisation	10
Defence Aviation Repair Agency	•
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	20
Meteorological Office	•
UK Hydrographic Office	0
Education and Skills	
Department for Education and Skills	210
Office for Standards in Education	
Office for Standards in Education	—
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (excl. agencies)	180
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	•
Central Science Laboratory	10
Government Decontamination Services	•
Marine Fisheries Agency	•
Office of Water Services	•
Pesticides Safety Directorate	•
Rural Payments Agency	—
State Veterinary Service	0
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	0
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	0
Export Credits Guarantee Department	
Export Credit Guarantee Department	30
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (excl agencies)	•
Wilton Park Executive Agency	•
Health	
Department of Health (excl agencies)	130
Medical and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	—
National Healthcare Purchasing and Supplies	—
NHS Pensions Agency	—
Food Standards Agency	—
Meat Hygiene Service	—
Home Office	
Home Office (excl agencies)	320
Assets Recovery Agency	—
Criminal Records Bureau	—
HM Prison Service	80
Identity and Passport Service	—
International Development	
Department for International Development	—
Northern Ireland Office	
Northern Ireland Office	10
Security and Intelligence Services	
Security and Intelligence Services	10
Trade and Industry	
Department of Trade and Industry (excl agencies)	20
Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service	—
Companies House	—
Insolvency Service	10
National Weights and Measures Laboratory	0
Office of Fair Trading	—
Office of Gas and Electricity Market	—
Postal Services Commission	—
Small Business Service	0
UK Intellectual Property Office	0
Transport	
Department for Transport (excl agencies)	60
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	40
Driving Standards Agency	30
Government Car and Despatch Agency	—
Highways Agency	20
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	—
Office of Rail Regulation	—
Vehicle Certification Agency	0
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	10
Work and Pensions	

Transfers to other Government departments—permanent headcount year to 30 September 2006

Department	Transfers to other Government Departments
DWP Corporate and Shared Services	180
Child Support Agency	60
Disability and Carers Service	30
Job Centre Plus	630
Pension Service	110
The Health and Safety Executive	210
The Rent Service	—
Scottish Executive	
Scottish Executive (excl agencies)	10
Communities Scotland	0
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service	—
Courts Group	•
Fisheries Research Services	0
General Register Scotland	•
HM Inspectorate of Education	•
Historic Scotland	0
Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland	0
National Archive for Scotland	0
Office of Accountant in Bankruptcy	•
Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator	0
Registers of Scotland	•
Scottish Agricultural Scientific Agency	0
Scottish Buildings Standards Agency	0
Scottish Court Service	•
Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency	•
Scottish Prison Service	—
Scottish Public Pensions Agency	0
Social Work Inspection Agency	0
Student Awards Agency	0
Transport Scotland	•
Welsh Assembly	
National Assembly for Wales	10
ESTYN	0
Assembly Parliamentary Service	—
Total employment	3,000

Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten, and numbers less than five are represented by "•".
Data not available are represented by "—"
Source:
Mandate

Transfers to other government departments—permanent headcount

Year to 1 April	Transfers to other Government Departments
2002	—
2003	4,310
2004	2,500
2005	2,520
	3,080

Source:
Mandate

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Welsh speakers his Department employs. [162892]

Angela Eagle: It is not compulsory for HM Treasury employees to declare that they are Welsh speakers, however, four employees have declared that they are Welsh speakers.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the 10 largest bonus payments made to staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies were in the last 12 months. [162328]

Angela Eagle: Performance bonuses to HM Treasury's SCS are paid in line with the SSRB report on senior civil service salaries. Bonuses for 2006-07 will be paid at the end of November 2007. Details of the remuneration of Treasury Board members is given in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts each year.

Devolution: Finance

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish tables corresponding to that set out in Annex C of Funding the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly: Statement of Funding Policy, for each year since 1999-2000. [162237]

Andy Burnham: The tables in Annex C of the Statement of Funding Policy contain the comparability factors used in the Barnett formula. The Statement of Funding Policy was first published in 1999 and has been updated and published in each spending review since then. The latest version was published on 9 October 2007 and is available on the Treasury's website at hm-treasury.gov.uk.

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will rank local authorities by the employment rate in their area in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2006. [162676]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about employment. (162676)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the working age employment rates for all local authorities, for the period March 1997 to February 1998, from the annual LFS, and Table 2 shows the same information for the period April 2006 to March 2007 (the latest period for which data are available) from the APS. In both tables the local authorities are listed in order of their employment rates. A copy of the tables has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

These statistics are published each quarter for all parliamentary constituencies and local authorities in the local area labour market statistical indicators publication (accessible from www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/ProductLasp?vlnk=14160). The latest data are also published in the Labour Market Statistics regional First Releases (accessible from www.statistics.gov.uk/onlineproducts/lms_regional.asp).

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. Estimates for the City of London in particular are based on very few observations. The employment rate is the number of working age people, in employment, who are resident in the area (not the number who work in the area), expressed as the percentage of all working age people resident in the area. Further, estimates of change over time for all areas should be treated with caution.

Employment: Lone Parents

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the average annual change in the employment rate among lone parents was in the years between *(a)* 1992 and 1997 and *(b)* 1997 and 2006; [162363]

(2) what the annual change in the employment rate for lone parents was in each year since 1992. [162679]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about annual changes in lone parent employment rates. (162363, 162679)

The information requested is shown in the attached table.

Estimates are taken from the Office for National Statistics's Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Employment rates of working age[1] lone parents with dependent children[2] United Kingdom, spring (March-May) 1992 to 2006, not seasonally adjusted

	Annual change[3] (percentage points)
1992-93	1.4
1993-94	-0.2
1994-95	0.5
1995-96	1.9
1996-97	1.2
1997-98	1.2
1998-99	1.7
1999-2000	2.9
2000-01	0.3
2001-02	1.6
2002-03	-0.1
2003-04	1.2
2004-05	2.2
2005-06	0.3
Average 1992-97	1.0
Average 1997-2006	1.3

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] Children under 16 and those aged 16-18 who are never-married and in full-time education.
[3] Base for percentages excludes people with unknown employment status.
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Foreign Workers: Multiple Occupation

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* non-UK EU and *(b)* non-EU nationals in employment in the UK who reside in communal establishments; whether houses in multiple occupation are regarded as communal establishments for the purposes of counting non-UK nationals in employment in the UK; and what criteria he used for this purpose. [162353]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about what recent estimates have been made of the number of *(a)* non-UK EU and *(b)* non-EU nationals in employment in the UK who reside in communal establishments; whether houses in multiple occupation are regarded as communal establishments for the purposes of counting non-UK nationals in employment in the UK; and what criteria is used for this purpose. (162353)

The Labour Force Survey covers people resident in private households and in NHS accommodation in the UK. A random sample is drawn from the 'small users' sub-file of the Postcode Address File (PAF) for Great Britain. This sub-file contains addresses which receive less than 50 items of mail a day and so covers 97% of private households in GB but not most communal establishments. For Northern Ireland, the Valuation List is used instead of the PAF.

A study completed by ONS in 2005 investigated extending the LFS to cater for residents in small communal establishments such as hotels and guesthouses. The results concluded that it was possible to collect information from this type of accommodation and that the study should be extended to cover other communal establishments. Therefore, the ONS plans to investigate methods to collect data from communal establishments in the future and this extension, would in principle pick up the resident and migrant workers living there who are currently excluded. However, until such time, it is not possible to estimate their numbers from the LFS.

The 2001 Census definition of a communal establishment is one providing managed residential accommodation with either full time or part time supervision. Therefore, multi-occupant households are not considered to be communal establishments. Houses in multiple occupation are included in the 'small users' sub-file PAF and sampled in the LFS and all residents of these households are interviewed including non-UK Nationals.

Investment

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* net and *(b)* gross rate of (i) tangible and (ii) intangible investment was in each year since 1997. [162308]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on what the (a) net and (b) gross rate of (i) tangible and (ii) intangible investment was in each year since 1997. (162308)

The information available is shown in the table 1 below (the four letter codes in brackets are ONS series identifiers). Net investment series are not produced but figures for capital consumption are presented in table 2 and can be used at current prices to derive net investment, which is presented in table 3.

More information about capital consumption is available in the 'Capital Stocks, Capital Consumption and Non-Financial Balance Sheets 2007' publication, available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=10730&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=272

Table 1: Gross fixed capital formation

£ million

	Tangible		Intangible		Transfer costs		Total GFCF	
	CP (EQCQ)	CVM (EQDS)	CP (DLXP)	CVM (EQDT)	CP (DFBH)	CVM (DFDW)	CP (NPQX)	CVM (NPQR)
1997	123,732	122,854	8,936	10,438	5,639	12,951	138,307	144,472
1998	140,524	142,732	9,461	10,742	6,012	12,098	155,997	164,249
1999	143,987	145,621	10,023	11,079	7,712	13,088	161,722	169,117
2000	147,681	148,509	10,670	11,445	8,821	12,810	167,172	173,710
2001	150,323	152,571	11,326	11,742	10,133	12,960	171,782	178,203
2002	155,527	157,257	12,614	12,371	12,410	14,097	180,551	184,701
2003	160,790	160,790	13,850	13,850	12,060	12,060	186,700	186,700
2004	170,644	167,152	14,164	14,457	17,452	16,046	202,260	197,655
2005	180,550	172,672	14,387	14,077	16,925	13,904	211,862	200,654
2006	196,438	185,879	15,485	14,960	21,587	16,247	233,510	217,085

Table 2: Capital consumption

£ million

	Tangible	Intangible		Transfer costs		Total	
	CP	CP	CVM	CP	CVM	CP	CVM
	(EXCT+GRSH+GRSN+GRST)	(BGUC)	(GRYP)	(EXCU)	(EXDH)	(NQAE)	(CIHA)
1997	82,351	7,189	8,576	5,639	12,950	95,179	101,460
1998	84,763	8,186	9,051	6,012	12,096	98,961	105,466
1999	88,849	8,946	9,586	7,712	13,087	105,507	110,533
2000	92,843	9,587	10,066	8,821	12,809	111,251	114,722
2001	95,407	10,256	10,565	10,133	12,960	115,796	118,072
2002	98,477	11,027	11,186	12,410	14,097	121,914	123,405
2003	101,729	11,764	11,764	12,060	12,060	125,553	125,553
2004	105,161	12,571	12,236	17,452	16,047	135,184	133,203
2005	108,331	13,098	12,745	16,925	13,903	138,354	133,706
2006	112,248	13,885	13,300	21,587	16,248	147,720	139,227

Table 3: Net fixed capital formation

£ million

	Tangible CP EQCQ-(EXCT+GRSH +GRSN+GRST)	Intangible CP (DLXP-BGUC)	Transfer costs CP (DFBH-EXCU)	Total CP (NPQX-NQAE)
1997	41,381	1,747	0	43,128
1998	55,761	1,275	0	57,036
1999	55,138	1,077	0	56,215
2000	54,838	1,083	0	55,921
2001	54,916	1,070	0	55,986
2002	57,050	1,587	0	58,637
2003	59,061	2,086	0	61,147
2004	65,483	1,593	0	67,076
2005	72,219	1,289	0	73,508
2006	84,190	1,600	0	85,790

Notes: 1. CP = Current prices. Prices in nominal terms.
2. CVM = Chained volume measures. Real terms.
3. CVM values are non-additive prior to the base year, 2003.

Listeria Monocytogenes

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths were recorded due to listeria infections in each of the last five years. [162913]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths were recorded due to listeria infections in each of the last five years. (162913)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2005. The table below shows the number of deaths where listeria infection was either the underlying cause of death, or was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate as a contributory factor, in England and Wales from 2001 to 2005.

Number of deaths where listeria infection[1] was the underlying cause of death, or was mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales, 2001 to 2005[2]

	Underlying cause	Mentions
2001	7	13
2002	5	10
2003	18	29

Number of deaths where listeria infection[1] was the underlying cause of death, or was mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales, 2001 to 2005[2]

	Underlying cause	Mentions
2004	17	29
2005	15	27

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Text of death certificates with the following codes were searched for mentions of listeria infection:
A32 - Listeriosis
O35.8 - Maternal care for other (suspected) fetal abnormality and damage
P37.2 - Neonatal (disseminated) listeriosis
[2] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar year.

Listeria: Death

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths were attributed to listeria in each of the last five years in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Norfolk. [163653]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths were attributed to Listeria in each of the last five years in (a) the UK and (b) Norfolk. (163653)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where listeria infection was either the underlying cause of death, or was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate as a contributory factor, in the UK, for 2001 to 2005 (the latest year available). There were no deaths attributed to listeria in Norfolk county in those years.

Table 1: number of deaths where listeria infection[1,2] was the underlying cause of death, or was mentioned on the death certificate, UK[3], 2001 to 2005[4]

		Persons
	(i) Underlying cause	(ii) Any mention
2001	9	18
2002	8	16
2003	20	32
2004	20	36
2005	16	29

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), codes A3 2 (Listeriosis), O35.8 (Maternal care for other (suspected) foetal abnormality and damage, with mention of listeria infection in the text of the death certificate), and P37.2 (Neonatal (disseminated) listeriosis).
[2] Figures shown as 'any mention' (column ii) include those where listeria infection was recorded as the underlying cause (column i).
[3] Figures include data provided by the Registrars General for Scotland and Northern Ireland.
[4] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar year for England and Wales, and for deaths registered in each calendar year for Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects HM Revenue and Customs to reply substantively to the letter of 30 April 2007 from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford, regarding a constituent, Mrs. C. Austin (HMRC ref: 2007/05 00517); what the reasons are for the time taken to reply; and if he will make a statement. [162402]

Jane Kennedy: Although it is HM Revenue and Customs' practice to reply to the majority of letters from right hon. and hon. Members within three weeks, following the administrative issue I referred to in my statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 62-63WS, some parts of HMRC's tax credits business have, unfortunately, been subject to delays. HMRC regret this and will continue to try to deal with all cases as quickly as they can.

These delays are a result of HMRC having to look again at cases potentially affected by the procedural error and to ensure that households/individuals affected by the error are not given incorrect advice in advance of their award being reviewed.

The three months indicated in the recent letter to the hon. Member was intended to be helpful and indicate the latest date by which HMRC hoped to have resolved the inquiry.

Minimum Wage

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1185W, on the minimum wage, what percentage of those in the South West Region earning less than the minimum wage are *(a)* male and *(b)* female. [163955]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Answer of 30th October 2007, Official Report, column 1185W, on the minimum wage, what percentage of those in the South West Region earning less than the minimum wage are (a) male and (b) female. (163955)

I attach a table showing the number of jobs earning less than the national minimum wage by Government Office Region. Estimates for the number of jobs paid below the national minimum wage by region by gender are not available.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnkr=5837

Estimates of UK jobs paid below minimum wage by Government office region

	2007	
Government office region	Thousand	Percentage
North East	16	1.5
North West (including Merseyside)	32	1.2
Yorks and Humber	24	1.2
East Midlands	25	1.4
West Midlands	26	1.2
Eastern	27	1.2
London	23	0.7
South East	32	0.9
South West	25	1.1
Wales	17	1.5
Scotland	30	1.3
Northern Ireland	15	2.1
All*	292	1.2

Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics

Office for National Statistics: Internet

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to improve the accessibility and user-friendliness of the Office for National Statistics website. [162306]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13th November 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding what steps has been taken to improve the accessibility and user-friendliness of the Office for National Statistics website. (162306)

The Office currently has a major project underway to review and improve its website, adopting the principles of user-centred design in order to ensure that it delivers the usability and functionality that its users require. The initial improvements to its website will focus on the area explaining the Office's new independent status following the passage of the Statistics and Registration Act 2007 which comes into force in April 2008. Thereafter the intention is to roll out a programme of improvements across the statistical areas of the website by 2009.

Pay

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median salary, including the pro-rata salary for part-time workers, of (i) full-time men, (ii) full-time women, (iii) part-time men and (iv) part-time women was in the UK in each of the last 10 years. [164072]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer what the (a) mean and (b) median salary including pro-rata salary for part-time workers of (i) full-time men, (ii) full-time women, (iii) part-time men and (iv) part-time women was in the UK in each of the last 10 years. (164072)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all full-time employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE survey, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

I attach a table showing the mean and median gross weekly earnings for full-time, part-time males and females from 1991 to 2007 for the UK.

Gross weekly pay for employee jobs[a] by UK

	Full Time Employees				Full Time Male				Full Time Female			
	Median £	Growth Rate	Mean £	Growth Rate	Median £	Growth Rate	Mean £	Growth Rate	Median £	Growth Rate	Mean £	Growth Rate
1997	321	—	373	—	357	—	416	—	265	—	301	—
1998	335	5	393	5	373	4	438	6	277	4	315	5
1999	346	3	408	4	384	3	453	4	289	4	331	5
2000	359	4	425	4	398	4	472	4	298	3	345	4
2001	376	5	450	6	416	5	499	6	314	5	367	6
2002	391	4	472	5	430	4	523	5	331	5	387	5
2003	404	3	487	3	445	3	539	3	343	4	401	4
2004 excl	423	5	506	4	463	4	557	3	361	5	422	5
2004 inc[b]	419	—	498	—	460	—	548	—	357	—	417	—
2005	431	3	516	4	471	2	568	4	371	4	436	5
2006 excl[c]	446	4	538	4	487	3	592	4	386	4	453	4
2006 inc[c]	444	—	535	—	484	—	590	—	383	—	450	—
2007	457	3	550	3	498	3	606	3	394	3	463	3

[a] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[b] In 2004 additional supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Figures are presented both excluding and including the additional surveys for comparison purposes.
[c] In 2006 a small number of methodological changes were introduced to improve the quality of the survey These include changes to the sample design itself, as well as the introduction of an automatic occupation coding tool. Figures are presented both excluding and including these changes for comparison purposes.

Guide to quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality.
The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5%, we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.
All of the figures on this table have a CV of less than 5%.
CV <= 5%
* CV > 5% and <= 10%
** CV> 10% and <=20%
x CV > 20%

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Gross weekly pay for employee jobs[a] by UK

	Part Time Employees				Part Time Male				Part Time Female			
	Median £	Growth Rate	Mean £	Growth Rate	Median £	Growth Rate	Mean £	Growth Rate	Median £	Growth Rate	Mean £	Growth Rate
1997	93	—	114	—	84	—	126	—	94	—	111	—
1998	97	5	120	6	86	3	130	3	99	5	118	6
1999	103	6	126	6	96	12	138	6	105	6	124	5
2000	106	3	131	3	96	0	133	-3	108	3	130	5
2001	110	4	135	3	99	3	137	3	112	4	134	3
2002	116	6	146	8	110	12	161	17	118	5	142	6
2003	123	6	153	5	113	2	165	2	125	6	150	6
2004 excl	131	6	162	6	120	7	172	5	133	6	159	6
2004 inc[b]	130	—	161	—	121	—	172	—	132	—	158	—
2005	132	2	167	4	122	1	181	5	135	2	163	3
2006 excl[c]	137	4	174	4	128	5	188	4	140	4	170	4
2006 inc[c]	138	—	173	—	128	—	188	—	140	—	169	—
2007	144	5	182	5	138	8	198	5	146	4	178	5

[a] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[b] In 2004 additional supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Figures are presented both excluding and including the additional surveys for comparison purposes.
[c] In 2006 a small number of methodological changes were introduced to improve the quality of the survey These include changes to the sample design itself, as well as the introduction of an automatic occupation coding tool. Figures are presented both excluding and including these changes for comparison purposes.
Guide to quality:
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The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5%, we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.
All of the figures on this table have a CV of less than 5%.
CV <= 5%
* CV > 5% and <= 10%
** CV> 10% and <=20%
x CV > 20%
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Pay: Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median salary including pro-rata salary for part-time workers of (i) full-time men, (ii) full-time women, (iii) part-time men and (iv) part-time women was in Cornwall in each of the last 10 years. [164071]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Daren Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median salary including pro-rata salary for part-time workers of (i) full-time men, (ii) full-time women, (iii) part-time men and (iv) part-time women was in the Cornwall in each of the last 10 years. (16407V)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all full-time employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE survey, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

I attach a table showing the mean and median gross weekly earnings for full-time, part-time males and females from 1997 to 2007 for Cornwall.

Gross weekly pay for employee jobs[a] by Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

	Full time employees				Full time male				Full time female			
	Median	Growth rate	Mean	Growth rate	Median	Growth rate	Mean	Growth rate	Median	Growth rate	Mean	Growth rate
1997	250	—	289	—	279	—	319	—	211	—	247	—
1998	253	1	298	3	292	*5	327	3	219	4	257	4
1999	260	3	301	1	283	-3	326	0	226	3	263	3
2000	276	6	318	6	290	2	339	4	251	11	286	9
2001	297	8	337	6	320	10	369	9	252	*1	286	0
2002	303	2	349	3	319	0	372	1	274	*8	312	9
2003	332	—	392	—	362	—	417	—	284	*	349	*
2004 excl	333	-8	395	-8	354	-8	416	-10	308	-5	362	-5

Gross weekly pay for employee jobs[a] by Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

	Full time employees				Full time male				Full time female			
	Median	Growth rate	Mean	Growth rate	Median	Growth rate	Mean	Growth rate	Median	Growth rate	Mean	Growth rate
2004 inc[b]	328	—	391	—	354	—	412	—	302	—	357	—
2005	341	4	403	3	365	3	428	4	315	*4	365	2
2006 excl[c]	360	6	415	3	391	7	449	5	326	*4	366	0
2006 inc[c]	359	—	414	—	389	—	449	—	326	*	365	—
2007	373	4	430	4	399	3	459	2	344	*6	389	6

a. Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
b. In 2004 additional supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Figures are presented both excluding and including the additional surveys for comparison purposes.
c. In 2006 a small number of methodological changes were introduced to improve the quality of the survey These include changes to the sample design itself, as well as the introduction of an automatic occupation coding tool. Figures are presented both excluding and including these changes for comparison purposes.
Guide to quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5%, we would expect the popuiation average to be within the range 180 to 220. CV <= 5% * CV>5%and<= 10% ** CV> 10%and<=20% x CV > 20%
Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Gross weekly pay for employee jobs[a] by Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

	Full time employees				Part time male				Part Time Female			
	Median	Growth rate	Mean	Growth rate	Median	Growth rate	Mean	Growth rate	Median	Growth rate	Mean	Growth rate
1997	89	*	100	—	x	x	108	**	89	**	99	*
1998	81	*-9	97	-3	x	x	105	**-3	80	-11*	95	*-4
1999	93	*15	110	14	111	**	133	*27	86	8*	105	11
2000	97	*4	118	7	x	x	x	x	95	*10	115	9
2001	111	*15	125	6	x	x	124	**-11	112	*19	125	*9
2002	109	*-2	125	0	108	**	119	**-3	109	*-2	126	1
2003	120	*	135	—	122	**	133	**	120	*	135	—
2004 excl	125	-1*	147	*-4	117	**0	155	**-26	126	*-1	145	3
2004 inc[b]	119	*	143	—	102	**	143	**	122	*	142	—
2005	125	*5	139	-3	135	**	150	*5	122	*0	135	-5
2006 excl[c]	136	*9	167	*20	x	x	188	*26	138	*13	160	*19
2006 inc[c]	136	*	167	*	x	x	190	**	137	*	160	*
2007	140	*3	165	-1	150	**	167	*-12	139	*2	164	3

a. Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
b. In 2004 additional supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Figures are presented both excluding and including the additional surveys for comparison purposes.
c. In 2006 a small number of methodological changes were introduced to improve the quality of the survey These include changes to the sample design itself, as well as the introduction of an automatic occupation coding tool. Figures are presented both excluding and including these changes for comparison purposes.
Guide to quality: The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5%. we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220. CV <= 5% * CV>5%and <= 10% ** CV>10%and<=20% x -CV > 20%
Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Pay: St Ives

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median salary including pro-rata salary for part-time workers of (i) full-time men, (ii) full-time women, (iii) part-time men and (iv) part-time women was in the St Ives constituency in each of the last 10 years. [164070]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median salary including pro-rata salary for part-time workers of (i) full-time men, (ii) full-time women, (iii) part-time men and (iv) part-time women was in the St Ives constituency in each of the last 10 years.(164070)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all full-time employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE survey, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

I attach a table showing the mean and median gross weekly earnings for full-time, part-time males and females from 1997 to 2007 for St Ives.

Gross weekly pay for employee jobs[a] by St. Ives

	Full-time employees				*Full-time male*				*Full-time female*			
	Median £	*Growth rate*	*Mean £*	*Growth rate*	*Median £*	*Growth rate*	*Mean £*	*Growth rate*	*Median £*	*Growth rate*	*Mean £*	*Growth rate*
1997	228	*	294	**	249	**	348	**	197	**	216	*
1998	233	*2	296	**1	241	**-3	343	**-1	214	**8	228	*6
1999	252	*8	318	**8	260	**8	370	**8	218	**2	243	*6
2000	256	*1	326	**2	272	**5	377	**2	237	**9	260	*7
2001	271	**6	322	*-1	289	**6	348	*-8	x	x	288	*11
2002	279	**3	371	**15	299	**3	x	x	263	**	288	*0
2003	284	*2	379	**2	302	**1	x	x	273	**4	299	*4
2004 excl[b]	316	**11	380	*0	324	**7	410	*-4	279	2	331	*11
2004 inc[b]	309	**	378	*	323	**	412	**	279	**	325	*
2005	304	*-2	373	*-1	318	**-2	398	**-3	289	**3	333	*2
2006 excl[c]	330	*9	430	**15	358	*12	511	**28	295	**2	328	*-1
2006 inc[c]	329	*	426	**	355	*	510	**	294	**	325	*
2007	332	**1	392	*-8	341	**-4	422	*-17	320	**9	347	*7

	Part-time employees				*Part-time male*				*Part-time female*			
	Median £	*Growth rate*	*Mean £*	*Growth rate*	*Median £*	*Growth rate*	*Mean £*	*Growth rate*	*Median £*	*Growth rate*	*Mean £*	*Growth rate*
1997	100	**	107	**	x	x	x	x	97	**	99	**
1998	87	*-13	93	**-13	—	x	—	x	—	x	—	x
1999	105	**21	112	*21	121	**	137	**114	99	**	108	**9
2000	x	x	130	**15	125	**3	x	x	x	x	120	**12
2001	x	x	142	*9	x	x	156	**4	x	x	138	**15
2002	112	**	128	*-9	x	x	x	x	112	**	132	**-4
2003	129	**16	139	*8	x	x	x	x	130	**16	137	*4
2004 excl[b]	128	**-1	145	*4	x	x	143	**	125	**-3	145	**6
2004 inc[b]	124	**	141	*	x	x	143	**	112	**	141	*
2005	124	**0	135	*-5	x	x	153	**7	x	x	126	**-11
2006	130	**5	173	**28	x	x	x	x	113	**	143	**14
2006[c]	131	**	175	**	x	x	x	x	x	x	144	**
2007	124	**-5	159	**-10	x	x	172	**	123	**	153	**6

[a] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

[b] In 2004 additional supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Figures are presented both excluding and including the additional surveys for comparison purposes.

[c] In 2006 a small number of methodological changes were introduced to improve the quality of the survey These include changes to the sample design itself, as well as the introduction of an automatic occupation coding tool. Figures are presented both excluding and including these changes for comparison purposes.

Guide to quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality.

The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

CV <= 5%

* CV> 5% and <= 10%

** CV> 10% and <=20%

x CV > 20%

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Personal Savings

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* net and *(b)* gross rate of (i) household and (ii) national savings was in each year since 1997. [162307]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 13 November 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what (a) the net and (b) the gross rate of (i) household and (ii) national savings was in each year since 1997.

Relevant information is shown in the table attached. In the UK National Accounts, following international guidelines, the household sector is combined with the non-profit institutions serving households sector (NPISH), and it is not possible to separate the two. Examples of institutions included within the NPISH sector are: charities; trade unions; universities; churches and political parties.

Net savings are calculated as gross saving less the consumption of fixed capital (depreciation).

Table 1: gross and net savings for the household and NPISH; and UK sectors

£ million

	Household and NPISH gross savings (NSSH)	*Household and NPISH consumption of fixed capital (QWLL)*	*Household and NPISH net saving (NSSI)*	*UK gross saving (NQET)*	*UK consumption of fixed capital (NQAE)*	*UK net saving (NQEJ)*
1997	54390	23704	30686	142061	95179	50126
1998	41844	25053	16791	158257	98961	63206
1999	33136	27976	5160	146294	105507	45239
2000	33584	30518	3067	147613	111251	41241
2001	45137	32908	12228	156483	115796	46049
2002	36301	36043	258	167161	121914	51154
2003	37421	36903	518	175725	125553	56486
2004	29307	42509	-13059	187751	135184	59324
2005	46745	43257	4122	186347	138354	55254
2006	43913	48623	953	193751	147720	57449

Source:
UK National Accounts—The Blue Book 2007
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1143

Public Expenditure

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in which official publication the definitive Barnett formula is published; and if he will make a statement. [162607]

Andy Burnham: The latest version of the Barnett formula was published in the Statement of Funding Policy by the Treasury on 9 October 2007 and is available on the Treasury's website at:

hm-treasury.gov.uk.

Registration of Births Deaths Marriages and Civil Partnerships

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make written records of births, marriages and deaths available to the public in the Family Records Centre until the online records are accessible by the public; and if he will make a statement. [162338]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking if written records of births, marriages and deaths will be made available to the public in the Family Records Centre until the online records are accessible by the public. (162338)

The paper volumes of birth, marriage and death indexes were removed from the Family Records Centre and placed in secure storage during October. Copies of indexes on microfiche, which are exact copies of the paper volumes, will be available at the Centre up to its closure in early 2008, with back-up arrangements under which customers who find the microfiche difficult to read can be advised by staff who have access to the paper records. From April 2008 The National Archives will continue to hold microfiche copies of the indexes.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consultations took place with *(a)* family history societies, *(b)* his Department and *(c)* other interested persons, prior to the removal of the paper records from the Family Records Office over the weekend of 27 to 28 October; and if he will make a statement. [162405]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what consultations took place with (a) family history societies, (b) his Department and (c) other interested persons, prior to the removal of the paper records from the Family Records Office over the weekend of 27th to 28th October. (162405)

The General Register Office (GRO) announced the proposed timing for the removal of paper records from public access at a meeting on 25 July of the Family Records Centre User Group, which is attended by the main genealogical and family history societies. GRO invited members of the User Group to put forward views about how the proposed arrangements could be improved. At the same time a notification was posted on GRO's website and sent to the genealogical press. Large posters were displayed in the FRC in multiple locations notifying customers of the changes, together with a timetable.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reasons are for the delay in providing the online version of the births, deaths and marriages registers; for what penalties the contractor will be liable as a result; and if he will make a statement. [162406]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking the reasons for the delay in

providing the online version of the births, deaths and marriages registers and what penalties the contractor will be liable to as a result. (162406)

Following approval of a business case, a high-level requirements specification for such a system was undertaken in late 2006 and early 2007. The results of this work were not in line with some of the assumptions in the business case and it was decided not to proceed with the project at that point. No supplier is liable for delays.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* original and *(b)* most recent estimated date was by which the online version of the registers of births, deaths and marriages will be accessible by the public. [162407]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) original and (b) most recent estimated date by which the online version of the registers of births, deaths and marriages will be accessible by the public. 162407

At the time of the original business case approval for the system, it was hoped that it would be available to access some index data by early 2008. Subject to agreement of a viable revised business case, and confirmation of funding, it is hoped that a system for on-line access can be in place during 2009.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* original and *(b)* most recent estimated cost was of the project to provide an online version of the registers of births, deaths and marriages provided by the General Register Office. [162408]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) original and (b) most recent estimated cost was of the project to provide an online version of the registers of births, deaths and marriages provided by the General Register Office. (162408)

The cost set out in the original business case was just over 4.5million. A revised business case has yet to be approved.

Unemployment: Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average rate of unemployment was for *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) the West Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, St. Ives constituency and (ii) Cornwall in each of the most recent 10 years for which figures are available. [164073]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what the average rate of unemployment was for *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) the West Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, St. Ives constituency and (ii) Cornwall in each of the most recent 10 years for which figures are available. (164073)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Tables 1 and 2 provide estimates on the numbers unemployed and the unemployment rates for men and women in the St. Ives constituency and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly county respectively. Estimates are provided from the local area LFS for the 12 month period ending in February, for 1998 to 2004 and from the APS for the 12 month period ending in March for 2005 to 2007.

Estimates for a subset of the population in a small geographical area are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Tables 3 and 4 provide annual average numbers of JSA claimants and these numbers as a percentage of the resident working-age population in St. Ives constituency and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly county respectively, for 1997 to 2006.

Table 1: Unemployment by sex; St. Ives parliamentary constituency[1]

Thousand

	Men		*Women*		*Total*	
12 months ending	*Level*	*[2] Rate (%)*	*Level*	*[2] Rate (%)*	*Level*	*[2] Rate (%)*
February 1998	1	6	1	6	3	6
February 1999	3	15	*	*	4	10
February 2000	2	7	2	9	3	8
February 2001	1	4	1	8	2	6
February 2002	1	5	1	6	2	6
February 2003	2	9	1	5	3	7
February 2004	2	8	1	6	3	7
March 2005	2	7	1	4	3	6
March 2006	1	4	*	*	2	3
March 2007	1	6	1	4	2	5

[1] The Isles of Scilly are not included in the Annual Population Survey.
2. Unemployed as a percentage of the economically active population.
* Sample size too small to provide estimate.
Note:
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey.

Table 2: Unemployment by sex; Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly county [1]

Thousand

12 months ending	Men		Women		Total	
	Level	[2] Rate (%)	Level	[2] Rate (%)	Level	[2] Rate (%)
February 1998	6	5	8	8	13	6
February 1999	8	6	5	5	13	6
February 2000	8	7	6	6	14	6
February 2001	6	5	4	4	10	4
February 2002	7	6	7	6	14	6
February 2003	6	5	3	3	9	4
February 2004	6	4	5	5	11	5
March 2005	8	6	4	3	12	5
March 2006	6	4	2	2	8	3
March 2007	5	4	5	4	10	4

[1] The Isles of Scilly are not included in the Annual Population Survey.
[2] Unemployed as a percentage of the economically active population.
Note:
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey.

Table 3: Jobseeker's allowance claimants by sex; St. Ives parliamentary constituency

Year	Men		Women		Total	
	Number	[1] Proportion (%)	Level	[1] Proportion (%)	Level	[1] Proportion (%)
1997	2,439	8	951	4	3,390	6
1998	2,144	7	900	3	3,043	6
1999	1,863	6	785	3	2,648	5
2000	1,571	5	647	2	2,218	4
2001	1,274	4	547	2	1,821	3
2002	1,112	4	481	2	1,593	3
2003	979	3	416	2	1,395	3
2004	810	3	330	1	1,140	2
2005	741	3	315	1	1,055	2
2006	841	3	349	1	1,189	2

[1] Number of claimants expressed as a percentage of the resident working-age population.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative data

Table 4: Jobseeker's allowance claimants by sex; Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly county

Year	Men		Women		Total	
	Level	[1] Proportion (%)	Level	[1] Proportion (%)	Level	[1] Proportion (%)
1997	10,873	7	3,849	3	14,723	5
1998	9,202	6	3,533	3	12,735	5
1999	8,433	6	3,339	2	11,772	4
2000	7,000	5	2,749	2	9,748	3
2001	5,660	4	2,210	2	7,870	3
2002	4,965	3	1,968	1	6,933	2
2003	4,517	3	1,808	1	6,324	2
2004	3,976	3	1,616	1	5,593	2
2005	3,845	2	1,549	1	5,394	2
2006	4,135	3	1,739	1	5,874	2

[1] Number of claimants expressed as a percentage of the resident working-age population.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative data

Vulture funds

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to prevent vulture funds operating in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [162958]

Kitty Ussher: The Government are working to address the problem of so-called 'vulture funds' in two ways—by preventing debts being sold to vulture funds in the first place and by limiting the damage done by cases already under way. To reduce the risk of debts falling into the hands of vulture funds, we are working with the World Bank to help poor countries buy back their commercial debts at a deep discount at the earliest possible opportunity through its Debt Reduction Facility. We are also working with Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs) to strengthen their debt management capacity and overall governance.

To address cases where poor countries' debts are already in the hands of vulture funds, we are working

with the African Development Bank to develop proposals for a Legal Assistance Facility to help ensure that countries have access to legal advice to help them fight these cases.

The UK will also continue to raise this issue internationally. At the recent Annual Meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, G7 Finance Ministers agreed to examine whether additional steps can be taken to address this problem.

Welfare Tax Credits: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit claimants there have been in West Chelmsford constituency since January 2007, broken down by those *(a)* underpaid, *(b)* overpaid, *(c)* paid the correct amount and *(d)* in dispute over their payments. [162132]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the numbers of families with tax credits awards, including information on overpayments and underpayments by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for 2005-06, is available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2005-06. Supplements on Payments in 2005-06. Geographical Analysis". This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Estimates for 2006-07 tax credit awards are due to be published in May 2008 when family circumstances and incomes have been finalised.

Information on the number of families who are in dispute over their tax credits payments is not available at constituency level.

PRIME MINISTER

Ballistic Missile Defence: Czech Republic

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he held with his Czech counterpart on 8 November on the US deployment of national missile defense in Europe; and what conclusions were reached. [163899]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 8 November 2007. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website at:

http://pm.gov.uk/output/Page13719.asp

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Visits

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister which *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* former hon. Members and *(c)* Peers who are not Members of the Labour Party he has invited to Downing Street since becoming Prime Minister. [162280]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 819W.

Honours: Domicile

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Prime Minister if he will take steps to ensure that a person nominated for *(a)* membership of the House of Lords and *(b)* an honour is domiciled in the UK for income tax purposes; and if he will make a statement. [163654]

The Prime Minister: The House of Lords Appointments Commission set out in their annual report 2006-07 that they would now decline to scrutinise any candidate for a life peerage who is not currently resident in the UK for tax purposes. Honours do not confer any legislative or executive function and therefore may be conferred on people domiciled abroad.

IGC 2007

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has to attend *(a)* the Signature Ceremony to conclude the 2007 Intergovernmental Council in Lisbon on 13 December and *(b)* the European Council in Brussels on 13 to 14 December. [163856]

The Prime Minister: Plans for the December European Council are yet to be confirmed.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Steen: To ask the Prime Minister when he referred the letter from Access to Community Education, Brixham of 12 July to the Department for Work and Pensions for reply. [163483]

The Prime Minister: My office received the letter on 18 July 2007. A reply was sent to Access to Community Education by the Department for Children, Schools and Families on 14 August 2007.

Members: Surveillance

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister whether it is his policy that no authorisation will be given for the interception of communications in respect of *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* Members of the House of Lords; and if he will make a statement. [162282]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 351W.

Public Relations: Prime Minister

Mr. Laws: To ask the Prime Minister (1) which local and regional newspapers were briefed on his education speech of 31 October 2007 by the *(a)* Senior Press Officer - Regions, in the Prime Minister's Press Office and *(b)* other press officers in the Prime Minister's Press Office; and if he will make a statement; [163572]

(2) what instructions were given to the regional press officers in the Downing Street Press Office in relation to the Prime Minister's education speech on 31 October 2007; and if he will make a statement; [163574]

(3) which schools the Downing Street Press Office told journalists would be mentioned in his education speech of 31 October; which schools were mentioned in the speech; and if he will make a statement. [163623]

The Prime Minister: All contacts with the media are conducted in accordance with the Ministerial Code, the Civil Service Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers and Guidance on the Work of the Government Information Service.

Saudi Arabia: Human Rights

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Prime Minister what representations he made to King Abdullah about human rights violations in Saudi Arabia during the King's recent visit to the UK; and if he will make a statement. [163907]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issues with King Abdullah during his recent visit.

Tony Blair

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister on what date he last met Tony Blair. [162279]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 820W.

World Cup

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Prime Minister whether he discussed the appointment of the Government's World Cup ambassador with the Football Association before the appointment was made. [162835]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 14 November 2007

NORTHERN IRELAND

Criminal Justice

7. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the possible devolution of responsibility for criminal justice in Northern Ireland. [161985]

Mr. Woodward: The Government stand by the terms of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and the St. Andrews Agreement. We will be ready to deliver the completion of devolution in May 2008, if the Assembly so requests.

Sesame Street in Northern Ireland Initiative

8. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had on the Sesame Street in Northern Ireland initiative; and if he will make a statement. [161986]

Paul Goggins: I have not had any discussions about Sesame Tree, the Northern Ireland version of Sesame Street.

None the less, it is an exciting project that I am pleased to endorse.

Police Community Support Officers

10. **David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made on plans to introduce police community support officers in Northern Ireland. [161988]

Paul Goggins: PCSOs will have an important role to play alongside regular police officers and other support staff, in making communities safer and providing public reassurance.

The precise date for the introduction of PCSOs is yet to be decided.

Cross-border Relations

11. **Mr. Newmark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on cross-border relations. [161989]

Mr. Woodward: I am sure that hon. Members will agree that the relationship between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland has never been stronger and that co-operation across a wide range of issues has never been more effective.

13. **Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on cross-border relations. [161991]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Braintree.

Dissident Republican Groups

12. **Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the activities of dissident republican groups in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [161990]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave earlier to the right hon. Member for Bracknell (Mr. Mackay) and the hon. Member for Mid-Bedfordshire (Mrs. Dorries).

Reservists

14. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on reservist numbers in Northern Ireland. [161992]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI establishment currently includes 680 full-time reserve officers and 634 part-time reserve officers.

The chief constable announced on 21 September that following a review he has concluded that the security situation requires him to retain a complement of 381 full-time reserve officers in order to secure the police estate and to provide protection and security in the external police environment.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects to publish his Department's autumn performance report. [164866]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office's autumn performance report is scheduled to be published on 13 December 2007.

Public Inquiries: Londonderry

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the public inquiry led by Lord Saville into the events in Londonderry in January 1972 to announce its findings. [163528]

Mr. Woodward: The preparation of the inquiry report is a matter for the tribunal. Due to the vast amount of evidence that must be considered it is difficult at this stage to be precise about when the report will be presented to me, although I am advised that further time beyond the end of this calendar year will be required.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on which dates the Child Support Agency (CSA) office in Falkirk requested from the Child Support Agency in Bolton the case files on cases NST/06/NP717772D and NST/321015478395 on Mr. M. N. of Aylesbury; and when he expects the CSA in Bolton to respond to those requests. [163481]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 14 November 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, on which dates the Child Support Agency (CSA) office in Falkirk requested from the Child Support Agency in Bolton the case files on cases NST/06/NP717772D and NST/32105478395 on Mr M. N. of Aylesbury; and when he expects the CSA in Bolton to respond to those requests. [163481]

As details about individual cases are confidential, I have written to you separately about this case.

Discrimination: Age

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he will take to bring forward measures to provide legal protection for older people against discrimination in the provision of goods, services and facilities; and if he will make a statement. [162604]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As part of its recent consultation on proposals for an Equality Bill, the Government sought views on whether there is a case for introducing legislation to prohibit harmful age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services.

We have received a significant number of responses and our analysis of these is informing the development and finalisation of our policy proposals. The Government will publish a response to the consultation in due course.

Incapacity Benefit: Forest of Dean

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the number of people in Forest of Dean constituency claiming incapacity benefit in respect of *(a)* mental and *(b)* physical impairments. [162857]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Number of Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in Forest of Dean

Quarter ending	*Mental impairments*	*Physical impairments*
February 2007	1,190	1,950

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. It is assumed that everything that is not a mental impairment is physical.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS

Pathways to Work

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of the Pathways to Work programme has been; what the cost for each participant securing *(a)* employment and *(b)* sustained employment has been; and what the projected cost of the national roll out of the Pathways to Work programme is. [162581]

Caroline Flint: To April 2007, we have spent £271 million on our Pathways to Work programme, covering 40. per cent of the country. We estimate that the cost per job in Jobcentre Plus-led Pathways areas is around £2,500. Comparable information on cost per sustained job in Jobcentre Plus-led Pathways areas is not available. We are rolling out Pathways to Work nationally to the remaining 60 per cent. of the country, through the private and voluntary sector, with £531 million available for provider contracts over three years. In total we expect a nationally rolled out Pathways to Work programme to cost around £400 million per year.

Pensioners: Low Incomes

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what change there has been in levels of pensioner poverty measured by poverty levels before housing costs since 1997. [161934]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Specific information regarding low income is available in 'Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2005-06 (Revised)', a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The threshold of below 60 per cent. contemporary median income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income.

Between 1996-97 and 2005-06, the number of pensioners below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income before housing costs fell by 0.2 million, from 2.4 million to 2.2 million.

As around two-thirds of pensioners own their own home outright, and so derive value from their housing without paying rent or mortgage interest, we consider that measuring pensioner incomes after housing costs better reflects pensioners' living standards relative to other groups. On an after housing costs basis the number of pensioners below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income fell by 1.1 million, from 2.9 million in 1996-97 to 1.8 million in 2005-06.

The figures quoted are for the UK for 2005-06 and for Great Britain for 1996-97. Data are not available on a UK basis for 1996-97.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the full-time equivalent headcount in his Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for his Department is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [163988]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The latest full-time equivalent headcount for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport can be found in the quarterly work force statistics published by ONS (www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pse0907.pdf) The forecast full-time equivalent headcount for 2008-09 and 2009-10 is not yet available as the work force forward projections are still being finalised.

Football: World Cup

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people in his Department are working on the 2018 FIFA World Cup bid. [164543]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department currently has two members of staff supporting my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Central (Mr. Caborn) in his role as the Prime Minister's World Cup ambassador.

My officials are discussing with the Football Association how we can work together to take forward the 2018 FIFA World Cup bid.

Gambling

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on problem gambling of *(a)* slot machines and *(b)* fixed odds betting terminals following the conclusion of the Gambling Commission's problem gambling prevalence study; and if he will make a statement. [163643]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2007 showed that 14 per cent. of the adult population used a slot machine in the past year and of these 2.6 per cent. were problem gamblers. 3 per cent. of the adult population used a Fixed Odd Betting Terminal in the past year and of these 11.2 per cent. were problem gamblers. The overall prevalence of problem gambling in the past year remained unchanged since 1999 at 0.6 per cent. of the adult population.

The Gambling Commission is planning a programme of secondary analysis of the prevalence survey data which will look specifically at some of the risk factors associated with problem gambling. The research will be commissioned shortly.

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received from bingo clubs and adult gaming centre operators on levels of trade since *(a)* September 2007 and *(b)* the commencement of relevant provisions of the Gambling Act 2005. [163644]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Ministers and officials hold regular meetings with key stakeholders from the gambling industry, including the Bingo Association, Business in Sport and Leisure (BISL) and the British Amusement Caterer Trade Association (BACTA), the main trade body representing gaming machine manufacturers, suppliers and arcades, including adult gaming centres.

These meetings have continued since the Gambling Act came into force on 1 September 2007, and have included representations relating to trading conditions. Ministers and officials have also received correspondence on this subject from the Bingo Association and a number of hon. Members.

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the evidential basis was for the decision to ban section *(a)* 16 and *(b)* 21 machines from adult gaming centres and bingo halls; how many section (i) 16 and (ii) 21 machines were in use in the UK in August 2007; and how many (A) bingo clubs and (B) betting offices were licensed in September (1) 2005, (2) 2006 and (3) 2007. [163645]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government never accepted that the legal provisions concerning amusements with prizes and low stake and prize gaming (in section 16 of the Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976 and section 21 of the Gaming Act 1968 respectively), were intended by Parliament to authorise gaming by machine.

Prior to 1 September 2007, where section 16 or 21 equipment operated, it was offered outside the 1968 Act regime which regulated gaming machines, and with greater stake and prize limits than was otherwise permitted for gaming machines in arcades and bingo halls in Great Britain.

The Department has consistently made its position clear to the industry, both during the passage of the Gambling Bill and during the subsequent implementation of the Gambling Act. Under the Gambling Act, all machines purportedly offered under either section 16 or section 21 are classified as gaming machines. They are subject to the same limits on stakes and prizes, numbers, and locations as other gaming machines, there are no special categories created for such equipment, and they do not attract grandfather rights. This position has existed since the Gambling Act came into force on 1 September 2007.

The Gambling Commission's annual report for 2006-07 states that the British Amusement Catering Trade Association (BACTA) estimated that there were 17,500 section 16/21 machines in 2006, the latest figures available.

Information about the number of bingo halls operating in March of each of the last three years is available in the Gambling Commission's annual reports which can be accessed at www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk. In March 2005 there were 678 such bingo halls, in March 2006, 657 and in March 2007, 634.

Under the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963, betting offices had to apply for a bookmaker's permit from a magistrates court. Under the Gambling Act, a betting office needs to apply for a general betting operating licence from the Gambling Commission.

The latest available figures, published by DCMS in 2003, indicated that there were 8,800 betting office licences in Great Britain. Now that the Gambling Act is in force, responsibility for collating figures on betting office licences has transferred to the Gambling Commission.

Museums and Galleries: Graduates

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many placements have been granted under the Young Graduates for Museums and Galleries programme; and which institutions have provided these placements; [163515]

(2) what *(a)* financial and *(b)* administrative support his Department and its agencies provided for the Young Graduates for Museums and Galleries programme in each of the last four years. [163516]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* Young Graduates for Museums and Galleries (YGMG) is an internship programme run by the

British Museum for gifted and talented students from non-traditional and diverse backgrounds aged 16 to 18 years old. 30 young people participated in the programme in 2005, 25 young people participated in 2006 and 40 young people participated in 2007. Six institutions are involved: the British Museum, Victoria and Albert Museum, National Portrait Gallery, the Petrie Museum, Tate and Royal Air Force Museum. The Natural History Museum has also recently joined the programme for 2008.

My Department provided £7,000 towards the publication of a research report in 2005. No other financial or administrative support has been provided to the Young Graduates for Museums and Galleries programme.

Olympic Games 2012: Scholarships

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many 2012 scholarships were awarded in each of the last three years; and what the average award value has been. [164239]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of TASS 2012 Scholarships awarded in each of the last three academic years and the average award value is shown in the following table.

	Number of awards	*Award value*
2004-05	0	—
2005-06	118	57 awards at £10,000 61 awards at £5,000
2006-07	114	86 awards at £10,000 10 awards at £5,000 18 awards ranging from £1,000 to £2,500

Sports: Facilities

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people who regularly use sports facilities in England live in Wales. [164074]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the number of people living in Wales but using sports facilities in England is not collected centrally.

Travel Information: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourist information centres there were in London on *(a)* 1 June 1992, *(b)* 1 June 1997, *(c)* 1 June 2002 and *(d)* 1 June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [162577]

Margaret Hodge: Information is not kept for the precise dates requested. There are currently 14 recognised tourist information centres (TICs) in London, including Swanley. Additionally, the new City of London Centre opening this month hopes to be recognised next year. There were 20 recognised TICs in 1998 and 14 in 2002.

UK Sport: Finance

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1217W, on UK Sport's overseas conferences, what UK Sport's involvement is with the Legacy Lives 2008 Conference taking place in Barbados in January 2008; and what the cost to the public purse of its involvement is estimated to be. [163747]

Mr. Sutcliffe: UK Sport is an International Partner of the Legacy Lives 2008 Conference. As the UK agency for World Class Events UK Sport is providing £30,000 to support the 2008 Conference.

Supporting Legacy Lives is part of an ongoing strategy to promote greater knowledge and debate about the legacy benefits that arise from public investment in major sporting events.

Video Games

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has had any discussions with the BBFC on the criteria used by video games manufacturers to select the video games submitted to the BBFC for classification. [164068]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* No. The criteria are set out in the Video Recordings Act. It is for the publishers and the Pan European Games Information system to ensure that games which lose their exemption are referred to the BBFC.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has had any discussions with his European counterparts on the adoption of a compulsory system for the classification of video games. [164069]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* I have had no such discussions. However, Baroness Scotland of Asthal, Lord Falconer of Thoroton and my hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan) represented the UK at the Justice and Home Affairs Council of the European Union held on 12 and 13 June where violent video games were discussed. A statement setting out the outcome of the council's discussions was laid in Parliament on 27 June.

In the UK, there is a statutory system in place for games that feature gross violence and/or material of a sexual nature.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Females: Voluntary Organisations

Ms Abbott: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps she is taking to ensure that Government funding for voluntary women's groups is provided on a long-term basis; and if she will make a statement. [162232]

Barbara Follett: The Third Sector Review, published in July by the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office, outlines the commitment by Government to pass on the flexibility and certainty of three year funding to third sector organisations they fund as the norm rather than the exception. Additionally the Office funds a number of Third Sector organisations to represent their voice to Government and one of those is the Women's Resource Centre; which provides voice and advocacy on behalf of the women's voluntary and community sector.

I recognise this is an issue for many smaller organisations who often struggle to provide much needed support.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) whether *(a)* an up-to-date budget, *(b)* the monthly cashflow and *(c)* a breakdown of contingency funds allocated to specific projects is made available to members of the Olympic Board at each board meeting; [162085]

(2) what budgetary information is brought before every meeting of the Olympic Board. [163717]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answers 12 and 13 November 2007]:* The Olympic Board has received monthly updates on *(a)* the budget and *(b)* cashflow of the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), and will continue to do so.

Contingency *(c)* is a matter for the Ministerial Funders Group. However, the Olympic Board has been given details of the £360 million contingency allocated to the ODA in June 2007.

The Olympic Board will receive further details of the ODA's budget and scope, within the £9.3 billion funding package, once it has been considered by the Ministerial Funders Group. I expect to provide Parliament with a more detailed breakdown of the budget and scope early in the new year.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she expects to be able to provide estimated overall costs for the planned *(a)* Spitalbrook site and *(b)* alternative site for Olympic canoeing facilities, with reference to the answer of 24 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 369W, on Olympic Games: Greater London. [162274]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The overall cost for the Olympic canoeing facilities will be announced once contractual negotiations have concluded, which we expect to be in early 2009 as planned. In the meantime, both sites continue to be considered as a venue for Games events, with a formal announcement on the site decision expected in early 2008. The project remains on track to complete the venue for test events in 2011.

TREASURY

Departmental Conferences

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on organising conferences to be held by his Department and its agencies that were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [164231]

Angela Eagle: I refer to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1183W.

Manpower: Government Departments

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the full-time equivalent headcount in his Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for his Department is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [163971]

Angela Eagle: The latest information of full-time equivalent headcount and plans for 2008-09 is published in the HM Treasury Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07 and is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/A/2/annual_report07.pdf

There is no set target for 2009-10 at present.

Suicide

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of deaths in *(a)* the West Cornwall and Isles of Scilly constituency of St. Ives, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* the UK were suicides in each of the last 10 years. [163279]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what percentage of deaths in *(a)* the West Cornwall and Isles of Scilly constituency of St. Ives, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* the UK were suicides in each of the last 10 years. (163279)

The table below provides the percentage of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, in *(a)* St. Ives parliamentary constituency, *(b)* Cornwall county and *(c)* the UK, for 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Percentage of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death[1], (a) St. Ives parliamentary constituency, (b) Cornwall county, and (c) the UK[2,3], 1997-2006[4]

	St. Ives	Cornwall	Percentage UK
1997	1	1	1
1998	1	1	1
1999	1	1	1
2000	0	1	1
2001	1	1	1
2002	1	1	1
2003	1	1	1
2004	2	1	1
2005	2	1	1

Table 1: Percentage of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death[1], (a) St. Ives parliamentary constituency, (b) Cornwall county, and (c) the UK[2,3], 1997-2006[4]

	St. Ives	Cornwall	Percentage UK
2006	1	1	1

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 and E980-E989. excluding E988.8 for the years 1997 to 2000 for England and Wales and Northern Ireland, and for the years 1997 to 1999 for Scotland, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending) for the years 2001 to 2006 for England and Wales and Northern Ireland, and for the years 2000 to 2006 for Scotland. Verdicts of suicide and undetermined intent are not returned for children under the age of 15 years.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Figures for the UK include data provided by the Registrars General for Scotland and Northern Ireland.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what efficiency savings his Department was required to make as part of its Spending Review 2004 (SR04) targets; what efficiency projects have been undertaken in the Department in pursuit of those targets; on what date each was initiated; and how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [162319]

Jonathan Shaw: The projects that comprised DEFRA's efficiency portfolio are set out in our Efficiency Technical Note. This was published on the HM Treasury website in December 2005 at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/busplan/spending-review/pdf/efficiencynote-0511.pdf.

Progress against our SR04 targets is reported in our departmental report. The most recent (2007) is at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/deprep/2007/2007-deptreport.pdf.

We laid a copy of our departmental report before Parliament on 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 45WS and placed copies in the House Library.

Ferries: Lymington

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps will be taken by the Marine Consents and Environment Unit to safeguard the environment when it determines the application by Wightlink to modify existing fenders, ramps and linkspan bridges on the Lymington to Yarmouth route; [162083]

(2) what assessment she has made of the advice from Natural England that proposals for new ferries between Lymington and Yarmouth constitute a project for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 85/337. [162084]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The licensing duties of the Marine Consents and Environment Unit are now exercised by the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) on behalf of the Secretary of State. Applications have been made to the MFA by Wightlink Ltd under both the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (FEPA) and the Coast Protection Act 1949 (CPA) to undertake works to modify the piles, fendering and access links concerned with the operation of their ferry service between Lymington and Yarmouth.

In determining applications for marine works, the MFA undertakes a rigorous scientific assessment of the potential environmental risks including, where such works lie in or close to a Natura 2000 site, whether they are likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of the conservation assets of that site. Natural England (NE) has advised that the works for which these applications have been made constitute part of a 'plan or project' in the context of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 and, having regard to the potential impact of the operation of larger replacement ferry vessels, it is their view that a formal 'Appropriate Assessment' (AA) should be carried out for the scheme.

Wightlink Ltd. has questioned NE's position and the MFA is currently considering this advice in consultation with a range of stakeholders. This includes other competent authorities that may be required to undertake an AA in exercising their statutory powers in respect of the project.

Fly Tipping: Databases

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that local authorities comply with Government guidelines when entering records on the Flycapture Database so that those records are harmonised and the resulting published tables provide an accurate comparison of local authority performance. [162023]

Joan Ruddock: Since the Flycapture database was set up in 2004, DEFRA has funded a data co-ordinator to help and encourage local authorities in England to register and to submit regular and accurate monthly returns.

DEFRA and the Environment Agency have produced guidance on how to submit returns accurately and when certain activity could be classed as fly-tipping. The data co-ordinator offers support to Flycapture data co-ordinators within local authorities, and visits authorities to help resolve problems and validate data.

DEFRA has also held a number of workshops with local authorities, and holds regular Flycapture support group meetings at which good practice and knowledge is shared.

The aim of this work is to ensure that, after a local authority has made the decision that an incident is a fly-tip, its size, waste type and location are recorded on Flycapture in the same way across all local authorities.

Ivory

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what enforcement and reporting systems exist for worked ivory in the UK; what assessment he has made of the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of the system; and if he will make a statement. [162046]

Joan Ruddock: Legal trade in ivory specimens is monitored and controlled in the UK through the issue of CITES (convention on international trade in endangered

species) permits. Seizures of illegal ivory are reported to CITES through the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS). Enforcement action against traders who are falsely claiming to trade under the derogation for antique worked items is a matter for the police. DEFRA officials work closely with the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU), and in particular, the Metropolitan police to ensure that items of worked ivory are what they are claimed to be. Regular checks are also made on the internet to monitor and check sales of ivory.

The NWCU is currently preparing a comprehensive intelligence dossier on all wildlife crime which will be used by all police forces and my officials to target the worst areas of criminality.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what methods of registration and licensing exist for importers, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers dealing in *(a)* raw, *(b)* semi-worked and *(c)* worked ivory products, in accordance with the requirements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP14) on domestic ivory trade controls; and if he will make a statement. [162047]

Joan Ruddock: EU regulations implementing CITES include no legal powers to register importers, manufacturers, wholesalers or retailers. Instead we have a system which controls the trade (i.e. movement) of ivory specimens through the issue of CITES permits. Each application is considered on its own merits.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to respond to the ivory trade questionnaire issued by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Secretariat in relation to the Action Plan for the control of trade in elephant ivory, pursuant to Decision 13.26 (Rev. CoP14) of CITES. [162048]

Joan Ruddock: CITES is implemented in the UK through the EU wildlife trade regulations. EU member states have therefore agreed that a combined EU response will be prepared by the European Commission and agreed by member states in response to the CITES ivory trade questionnaire.

Plastics: Recycling

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to require manufacturers of plastic containers to rationalise the types of plastic they use and to specify its type; and if he will make a statement. [162980]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 12 November 2007]*: DEFRA has no plans to require manufacturers to rationalise the types of plastic they use, or make the marking of plastic packaging mandatory.

In relation to packaging, forcing producers to use specific materials would amount to a restriction of trade and would contravene the single market provisions in the EC Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive. However, the Directive requires producers to minimise packaging, use recyclable materials and to take steps to ensure that these are recycled as far as possible once they have become waste. While virtually all plastic packaging is technically recyclable, in some cases this is not economically viable.

A European Commission Decision (97/129/EC) provides for numbering and abbreviations to identify the different packaging materials, including plastics. While the marking system is voluntary, where packaging is marked, producers are required to use the markings indicated in the Directive. We would encourage manufacturers to use these markings where possible, to aid the process of sorting and recycling of plastic packaging waste.

TRANSPORT

A14: Kettering

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Highways Agency expects to publish its options appraisal for improving the capacity of the A14 around Kettering. [163843]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 13 November 2007]*: The Highways Agency is currently re-evaluating several options in line with latest appraisal guidance. I expect a report back on this work in 2008 and we will then discuss its conclusions with regional stakeholders.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assumptions have been made by the Highways Agency about the number of new dwellings which would need to be built in Kettering to trigger the introduction of demand management measures for access to and from the A14 around Kettering. [163844]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 13 November 2007]*: The Highways Agency is investigating possible low-cost improvements to the A14 around Kettering with a view to assisting the delivery of growth in the short/medium term. This includes demand management measures which will complement Northamptonshire's Transport Strategy for Growth. This study is due to report early next year when we will be able to relate its findings to housing numbers.

A42

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to upgrade the A42 to motorway. [163339]

Mr. Tom Harris: The future of the A42 corridor was examined as part of the West Midlands to East Midlands Multi Modal Study which recommended the upgrade of the road to full motorway and widening. The A42 has been identified as a Trunk Road of Regional importance, and it is therefore for the East Midlands Regional Assembly to consider and recommend to the Secretary of State their priorities for funding of improvements in the Region through the Regional Funding Allocation (RFA).

The current RFA allocates schemes up to 2016. The improvement to the A42 was not prioritised by the Region for delivery during that period. The status of the scheme would be reconsidered by the Region as part of any further rounds of the RFA process.

Accidents: A262

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* serious injuries occurred on the A262 between Goudhurst and Cranbrook in each of the last 10 years. [164130]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There were no fatal accidents recorded on the A262 between the junction with North Road at Goudhurst and the junction with the A229 at Cranbrook during the past 10 years. The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one serious injury on the above stretch of the A262 in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table.

Number of accidents

	Accidents involving at least one serious injury
1997	1
1998	2
1999	0
2000	0
2001	3
2002	1
2003	0
2004	2
2005	1
2006	1

Invalid Vehicles

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what her policy is on whether mobility scooters should only be available after approval has been sought from a general practitioner; [163107]

(2) if she will introduce compulsory training for the use of mobility scooters. [163640]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport does not currently believe that general practitioners should be responsible for approving the use of mobility scooters by members of the public. However, we are currently reviewing the future registration, training and fitness to drive requirements of mobility scooter users in England and will be announcing our plans in this area in early 2008. All options, including the possible introduction of compulsory training, are being considered as part of this process.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to reply to the letter of 26 September from the hon. Member for Beaconsfield. [163943]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I replied to the hon. Member's letter dated 26 September on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport on 18 October.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to reply to the letter of 18 September from the hon. Member for Beaconsfield. [163946]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has no record of receiving a letter dated 18 September from the hon. Member.

Motorcycles: Tolls

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to exempt motorcycles from future proposals to introduce *(a)* road pricing and *(b)* congestion charges. [162060]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Several local authorities are developing plans for local pricing schemes, but it is too soon to know whether they will decide to charge motorcycles or exempt them as in London. As proposals emerge from local authorities the Government will consider whether it needs to set any central rules or offer guidance on discounts and exemptions.

Obesity

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what response she has made to the Foresight report on Tackling Obesities: Future Choices in relation to the role of transport policy in the development of obesogenic environments. [163743]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Officials from the Department for Transport were involved in development of the Foresight report. We agree that a built environment which encourages active travel is important.

The primary responsibility for ensuring local networks are conducive to walking and cycling rests with local authorities. The Department provides guidance and advice such as 'Manual for Streets', which we published in March this year. Our aim, through the manual, is to reduce the dominance of motor vehicles in residential street design by assigning a higher priority to the needs of pedestrians and cyclists. The manual is aimed at all practitioners involved in the planning, design, approval and provision of residential streets.

We recognise the wider benefits including the health benefits of promoting active travel. We will continue to work with other Government Departments such as Department for Children, Schools and Families where we are working together to promote sustainable travel to school and with local authorities to ensure that the environment is structured to encourage active travel.

Railway Stations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what new railway station or halt openings or re-openings have occurred in the last 10 years; what the date of each was; and what the estimated population hinterland was in each case. [163625]

Mr. Tom Harris: Stations opened or reopened on the national rail network since November 1997 are listed in the table. The population hinterland of each is not held centrally.

Station	*Opened*
Euxton Balshaw Lane	15 December 1997
Brunswick	9 March 1998
Dalgety Bay	28 March 1998

Station	Opened
Drumfrochar	24 May 1998
Whitwell	24 May 1998
Creswell	24 May 1998
Langwith—Whaley Thorns	24 May 1998
Shirebrook	24 May 1998
Conway Park	22 June 1998
Canning Town[1]	14 May 1999
West Ham[2]	14 May 1999
West Brompton	30 May 1999
West Ham[3]	30 May 1999
Norwich Parkway	30 May 1999
Luton Airport Parkway	21 November 1999
Dunfermline Queen Margaret	25 January 2000
Brighouse[4]	29 May 2000
Wavertree Technology Park	13 August 2000
Lea Green	17 September 2000
Warwick Parkway	8 October 2000
Howwood	12 March 2001
Beauly[4]	15 April 2002
Newcraighall	2 June 2002
Brunstane	2 June 2002
Edinburgh Park	18 December 2003
Braintree Freeport	10 December 2003
Glasshoughton	12 December 2004
Chandlers Ford[4]	12 December 2004
Gartcosh	9 May 2005
Rhoose—Cardiff airport	10 June 2005
Llantwit Major	10 June 2005
Kelvindale	26 September 2005
Larkhall	11 December 2005
Merryton	11 December 2005
Chatelherault	11 December 2005
Liverpool South Parkway	11 June 2006
St. Pancras International	14 November 2007

[1] Resited due to Jubilee Line works
[2] North London Line platforms—resited due to Jubilee Line works
[3] Southend Line platforms
[4] Reopened

Railway Stations: Shipley

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been allocated to accessibility improvements at Shipley railway station under the Access for All programme. [163836]

Mr. Tom Harris: Shipley station has been targeted to receive an estimated £3,054,000 investment under the Access for All Main Programme.

This will see the installation a new footbridge and lifts to platforms 3 and 4, as well as new lifts to the existing footbridge connecting platforms 1 and 2; thus creating an accessible route into the station and between platforms. These works are currently targeted for completion during spring 2008.

Transport: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of transport infrastructure needs in Hertfordshire; and if she will make a statement. [163423]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The local highway and planning authority, Hertfordshire county council, has the responsibility for assessing the infrastructure needs in Hertfordshire in conjunction with the development of their local transport plan (LTP). They have recently reported good progress against their LTP targets and I expect them to continue to reassess the transport infrastructure needs of the county against these indicators and in line with published proposals for future growth.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of individual voluntary arrangements were made *(a)* pre-bankruptcy and *(b)* post-bankruptcy in each year since the introduction of the Enterprise Act 2002; and if he will make a statement. [164228]

Mr. McFadden: The personal insolvency provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002 came into force on 1 April 2004. The number of IVAs since then is set out in the following table:

	2004-05	2005-07	2006-07
Total number of IVAs	11,613	24,947	47,975
Total number of post-bankruptcy IVAs	135	114	71
Total number of pre-bankruptcy IVAs	11,478	24,833	47,904
Post-bankruptcy IVAs as percentage of all IVAs	1.16%	0.46%	0.15%
Pre-bankruptcy IVAs as percentage of all IVAs	98.84	99.54	99.85

I do not intend to make a statement on this matter.

Departmental Public Consultations

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many citizens' juries were arranged for his Department for each year between 1997 and June 2007; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each. [163602]

Mr. Timms: The narrowing of the scope of the right hon. Member's previous question by removing the reference to agencies does not alter my reply to the right hon. Member of 30 October 2007, *Official Report* column 1323W.

EC Reform: Treaties

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect of the implementation of the EU Reform Treaty on the control of UK oil reserves. [162653]

Malcolm Wicks: Article 176a of the Treaty does provide for the EU to help manage the functioning of integrated European energy markets, but does not seek to move control of any nation's energy resources to the EU. A key passage included in Article 176 reads:

"Such measures shall not affect a member state's right to determine the conditions for exploiting its energy resources, its choice between different energy sources and the general structure of its energy supply..."

It is clear from this that the UK and other EU nations will continue to have control over their indigenous energy resources.

Export Credits Guarantees: Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 186W, on Iran: export credits guarantees, what conclusions have been reached on the applicability of UN Security Council Resolution 1747 to the provision of export credits to Iran; and if he will make a statement. [163949]

Malcolm Wicks: The Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) of Member States of the European Union have not reached a common understanding of the applicability of UNSCR 1747 to the provision of export credit guarantees. Each ECA determines its cover policy as described in the answer [2857] provided on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 49W on Iran, Export Credit Guarantees. No applications for cover for Iran are being processed by ECGD while the market is under review.

Fuel Poverty: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of pensioner householders were defined as being in fuel poverty in Stroud constituency in each of the last 10 years. [163575]

Malcolm Wicks: In 2003 the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset (available online at http://www.fuelpoverty indicator.org.uk/) estimates that there are approximately 2,700 fuel poor households in Stroud. There is no split available for whether these are pensioner households or not.

Nationally 47 per cent. of households that are fuel poor have a household compositions of "couple, no dependent child(ren), aged 60 or over" or "one person aged 60 or over". These data are available from the "Detailed Breakdown of Fuel Poverty in England in 2004; Version 1, April 2004" available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file29687.pdf

There are no timeline data available.

Manufacturing Industries: Automation

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on the costs of UK manufacturing industry investment of increased use of industrial robots; [163877]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of increased use of industrial robots on UK industrial productivity. [163876]

Mr. Timms: No recent assessment has been made. Officials are liaising with the Engineering and Machinery Alliance and the British Automation and Robot Association about the role of robotics in improving productivity.

Minimum Wage: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people in Scotland earn the minimum wage; what percentage of the population in work this figure represents; and if he will make a statement. [163526]

Mr. Thomas: The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings estimates that in April 2007 there were around 70,000 employee jobs in Scotland paid a rate within 5p of the relevant national minimum wage rate. In April 2007 this was £5.35 for those aged 22 or over, £4.45 for those aged 18 to 21 and £3.30 for those aged 16 to 17. This represents approximately 3 per cent. of Scottish employee jobs.

Mobile Phones: Fees and Charges

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the Government's policy on proposals by the European Union to cut the cost of mobile telephone calls throughout the EU. [163545]

Mr. Timms: The aim of the UK Government in negotiating the Mobile Roaming Regulation was to strike a balance, introducing changes that would benefit all mobile phone users, without distorting the market or stifling competition and innovation in the mobile phone industry.

Our view was that roaming prices were indeed higher than could be justified, and the question was how—not whether—to address the problem. But we had severe misgivings about the nature of the solution initially proposed by the Commission, which would have had a serious effect on competition (particularly on smaller players) and could have led to increases in domestic call rates.

We worked closely with business and our European partners to find a solution which was good for consumers and which supported a viable and competitive market. We welcome that result. UK consumers are already reaping the benefits.

Nuclear Power Stations

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects his Department to approve the first pre-authorisation consent for new nuclear power stations. [163000]

Malcolm Wicks: Following a request from the Government, the regulators (the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency) developed a process for generic design assessment of new nuclear

reactor designs, which they are carrying out on a contingent basis pending the outcome of the consultation on the future of nuclear power. The regulators published their guidance on the Generic Design Assessment process in January 2007.

The regulators estimate that performing generic design assessments for a competitive number of reactor designs could take around three and a half years, running until around 2010-11. Greater clarity on the time needed for the generic design assessment process should become available as the process unfolds. The time needed will also depend on the number of designs that are assessed concurrently.

Nuclear Power Stations: Design

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether any proposed designs for new nuclear power stations have been received by his Department for generic design assessment. [162999]

Malcolm Wicks: The consultation document "The Future of Nuclear Power", published on 23 May 2007 invited vendors of nuclear reactor designs who are interested in having their designs assessed through the Generic Design Assessment process to write to the regulators' Joint Programme Office by 22 June 2007.

By this date, the regulators had received four applications for Generic Design Assessment.

Following assessment of the applications by the Government, all four were found to have met the criteria set down in the consultation document and as a result, the regulators (the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency) agreed to assess all four designs in the initial stage of the generic design assessment process. A press notice setting out the outcome of the Government's assessment of applications was released on 5 July 2007. This, along with the letters of application sent by the vendors, and their letters of endorsement from operators, can be found on the BERR website.

Nuclear Power: Public Participation

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when his Department plans to publish a formal response to the recently concluded consultation on the future of nuclear power; and if his Department will publish a list of all respondents to the consultation. [162998]

Malcolm Wicks: I plan to publish a response to the consultation around the turn of the year. I will also publish on my Department's website all responses to the consultation, except where the respondents asked for their responses to remain confidential.

Post Codes: Charities

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his Department has had with Royal Mail on the provision of a free postcode database for use by charities. [163912]

Mr. McFadden: My Department has not had any discussions with Royal Mail on the provision of a free postcode database for use by charities. The Postal Address File is owned and managed by Royal Mail. Under the Postal Services Act 2000 and a condition of its licence, Royal Mail is required to maintain and make the PAF available to any person who wishes to use it on such terms as are reasonable. Postcomm is responsible for enforcing this.

Post Office: Manpower

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people served by English postal sorting offices reside in Wales. [164075]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked Adam Crozier, Chief Executive of Royal Mail to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the total budget is for each regional development agency for *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [164158]

Mr. Timms: The regional development agencies' allocated budgets for 2007-08 are set out in the following table. The Department has also given them indicative budgets for 2008-09 to 2010-11 to enable them to produce corporate plans for approval in the new year.

£000

RDA	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Advantage West Midlands	290,960	279,064	275,378	268,914
East of England Development Agency	136,557	131,803	130,228	127,184
East Midlands Development Agency	175,536	159,709	157,668	153,972
London Development Agency	374,149	389,674	384,626	375,604
North West Development Agency	395,003	391,611	386,442	377,371
One NorthEast	277,050	247,696	244,361	238,619
South East England Development Agency	162,887	159,707	157,832	154,145
South West of England Regional Development Agency	159,339	156,981	155,053	151,425
Yorkshire Forward	304,316	303,049	299,048	292,028

Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent estimate he has made of the share of the UK's primary energy consumption generated from renewable sources using the European Commission's method of calculation; and on what assumptions this estimate is based. [162873]

Malcolm Wicks: According to statistics published by Eurostat in September 2007, gross inland consumption of energy in the United Kingdom in 2005 was 232,259 thousand tonnes of oil equivalent of which renewables accounted for 4,055 thousand tonnes of oil equivalent or 1.7 per cent. The corresponding percentage for 2004 was 1.5. The 2005 percentage for the 27 member states of the EU taken together was 6.7. The definitions used for these "primary fuel input" percentages are as follows.

"Gross inland consumption of energy is a measure of the energy inputs to the economy, calculated as total indigenous energy production plus energy imports minus energy exports, plus net withdrawals from existing stocks. Renewable energy is similarly measured in primary fuel input terms."

Eurostat have also published (in October 2007) statistics that show the percentage of final energy consumption covered by renewable energy. For the UK in 2005 this was 1.3 per cent. up from 1.2 per cent. in 2004 and compares with 8.3 per cent. for the 27 member states of the EU taken together in 2005. The definitions used for these final consumption percentages are as follows.

"The share of final energy consumption attributable to renewables is the sum of the following three elements:

the final consumption of renewables for heat production (including the final consumption of district heat from renewables)

gross electricity generation from renewables

liquid biofuels used for transport

divided by the final energy consumption (industry, transport and other sectors) of all energy sources, including consumption by the energy industries and distribution losses for energy and heat production."

Small Businesses: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small businesses within the Copeland area have declared bankruptcy in each of the last five financial years. [163003]

Mr. McFadden: Table 1 shows the number of bankruptcies in Copeland for the last five calendar years derived from postcodes provided by bankrupt individuals (financial year information cannot be provided in the time available).

The "business bankruptcies" shown are all those cases where the bankrupt individual was classified as being self-employed/trading; it is not possible to further split these by size of business. Cases presented on the petition of the debtor (the business) are also shown separately from those presented on the petition of a creditor.

Classifying bankrupts into geographic areas is done using the postcode that the bankrupt individual provides. The use of this in assigning an individual to a district is thus as reliable as the postcode information provided.

Table 1

	Bankruptcies				
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Copeland business bankruptcies	10	7	7	7	5
Of which:					
Copeland business bankruptcies creditor petition	2	1	2	1	1
Copeland business bankruptcies debtor petition	8	6	5	6	4
All Copeland bankruptcies	33	29	28	30	38

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small businesses within Copeland have ceased trading within *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* three years of starting to trade in the last five years. [163026]

Mr. Timms: Data on the number of all small businesses that cease trading are not available.

However, data on the number of businesses of all sizes that cease trading one and three years after registering for VAT are available. Due to low absolute numbers of businesses de-registering for VAT for Copeland local authority, the data are combined with those for Barrow-in-Furness local authority to give a more robust estimate.

The following tables show the number of businesses that de-registered for VAT within one and three years of registration, for Copeland local authority and Barrow-in-Furness local authority combined, by year of registration for the latest five years worth of available data.

The number of VAT de-registrations within one of registration, and the one year de-registration rate by registration year, in Barrow-in-Furness and Copeland combined

	Year of registration				
	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Number de-registering for VAT within one year	16	7	7	13	11
De-registration rate[1] within one year (percentage)	9	5	4	4	5

[1] Calculated as the proportion of those registering that de-register within the period.

Source:
BERR analysis of VAT and survival rate data

The number of VAT de-registrations within three years of registration, and the three year de-registration rate by registration year, in Barrow-in-Furness and Copeland combined

	Year of registration				
	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
Number de-registering for VAT within three years	76	58	44	32	34
De-registration rate[1] within three years (percentage)	36	29	25	22	19

[1] Calculated as the proportion of those registering that de-register within the period.

Source:
BERR analysis of VAT and survival rate data

VAT registration and de-registration data for 2006 will be published on 14 November 2007. Survival data will not be produced again until 2009.

Since the registration rate exceeded the de-registration rate throughout the period, the stock of VAT registered businesses in Copeland local authority rose by 9 per cent. between the start of 2001 and the start of 2006 and the stock for Copeland and Barrow-in-Furness combined rose by 7 per cent.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Similarly, businesses that de-register may not have closed. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (41 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what system is used to monitor the armed forces level of fuel reserves and fuel consumption in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [162571]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In both Iraq and Afghanistan, bulk fuel storage tanks are dipped on a daily basis to measure the volumes of fuel held. This is reported upwards through routine reports and returns.

In Iraq, in order to take account of fuel expansion in hot weather, bulk fuel meters are used at fuel inlets and outlets as an additional measure to monitor fuel levels.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the average number of days of service personnel's rest and recreation mid-way through an operational tour which has been lost due to circumstances outside the control of the individual concerned in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [162261]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, operational circumstances such as medical evacuations do cause delays from time to time. Significant effort is made by the permanent joint head quarters and commanders in the theatres to ensure that delays experienced by personnel proceeding on their rest and recuperation are kept to a minimum.

Armed Forces: Shipping

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the effectiveness and efficiency of *(a)* Hunt Class and *(b)* River Class patrol vessels are measured; what the principal differences are between them; and if he will make a statement. [163374]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The River and Hunt Class vessels provide different capabilities. The River Class are Offshore Patrol Vessels that are leased by the Department, primarily to meet its remit to DEFRA for providing Fishery Protection in UK waters. The Hunt Class, however, are Mine Counter-measure Vessels that, prior to the introduction of the River Class, were used to meet the Department's requirement to carry out Fishery Protection duties.

The principal differences between the two Classes are listed in the table as follows:

	River Class	*Hunt Class*
In Service Date	2003	1980-1989
Number in Class	3	11
Number in-service	3	11
Primary role	Offshore Patrol Vessel	Mine Countermeasure Vessel
Length	79.5m	60m
Beam	13.6m	10.5m
Draught	3.8m	2.2m
Tonnes	1,677	750
Complement	30 (plus boarding party)	45
Weapons systems	1 x 20mm gun	1 x 30mm gun Outfit DLK decoy systems
Mine Warfare systems	None	Remote controlled submersibles and mine clearance divers

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost is of uparmouring one US Force Protection Inc's Cougar vehicle to create the finished Mastiff vehicle. [162563]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The full integration cost of converting a Cougar vehicle into a Mastiff is £308,000 excluding VAT. This includes armour, electronic counter measures, communications system, weapons station, miscellaneous internal fitments and stowage, situational awareness system and design and developments costs. The cost of the armour element, which includes procurement of materials, machining and fitting, is £70,000, excluding VAT.

Charities: Liability

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much Defence Estate (Thetford) has billed in liability charges for charity events held on his Department's property since April 2005; [163022]

(2) how much Defence Estate (Warminster) has billed in liability charges for charity events held on his Department's property since April 2005; [163023]

(3) how much Defence Estate (Telford) has billed in liability charges for charity events held on his Department's property since April 2005; [163024]

(4) how much Defence Estate (Rosyth) has billed in liability charges for charity events held on his Department's property since April 2005; [163025]

(5) how many decisions to waive the liability charge on Defence Estate (Aldershot) have been made for charity events since 2006; and what events were involved; [163027]

(6) how much Defence Estate (Andover) has billed in liability charges for charity events held on his Department's property since April 2005; [163028]

(7) how much Defence Estate (Sutton Coldfield) has billed in liability charges for charity events held on his Department's property since April 2005; [163029]

(8) how much Defence Estate (Salisbury) has billed in liability charges for charity events held on his Department's property since April 2005; [163030]

(9) how much Defence Estate (Osbaldwick, York) has billed in liability charges for charity events held on his Department's property since April 2005; [163031]

(10) how much Defence Estate (High Wycombe) has billed in liability charges for charity events held on his Department's property since April 2005. [163032]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is not possible to separately identify liability charges billed by each Defence Estates (DE) office from other charges for events without incurring disproportionate cost in each case.

DE Aldershot has made no decisions to waive liability charges for charity events since 2006.

Cyprus: Prisons

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of *(a)* prison conditions and *(b)* prisoners' rights for Cypriots held in the Sovereign Base Areas; and if he will make a statement. [163125]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Sovereign Base Area (SBA) prison conditions and prisoners' rights are governed by the SBA Prisons Ordinance 1971 and the associated Prison (General) Regulations 2005. In support of these regulations, the SBA Administration keeps all matters relating to the SBA prison under constant review.

In 2004, the SBA Administration commissioned HM Chief Inspector of Prisons to conduct a review of the SBA prison facility. Of the subsequent recommendations, the vast majority were accepted and have been implemented. For the small number that could not be implemented, primarily for reasons of practicality, the SBA Administration has introduced other measures to comply with the spirit of the recommendations.

Departmental Expenditure

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his Department's budget for conferences is in 2007-08; [162636]

(2) how much his Department spent on hiring external venues for conferences in 2006-07. [162640]

Derek Twigg: The MOD does not have a central budget for conferences. The cost of conferences, including the hiring of external venues, is borne by individual units; therefore the information required could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many instances of damage to the axles and leaf springs to the Mastiff vehicle have been recorded by his Department in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [162562]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Records show that there have been no instances of damage of this type to Mastiff vehicles in Iraq over this period.

Mastiff vehicles were first deployed to Afghanistan earlier this year. Since being deployed, there have been 10 instances of damage to the axles and leaf springs of that vehicle. An upgrade to the suspension system has now significantly reduced the number of incidents of damage.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters in the *(a)* Army Air Corps, *(b)* Fleet Air Arm and *(c)* RAF are currently (i) in service and (ii) fit for purpose. [162575]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of helicopters utilised by the Royal Navy, Army Air Corps and Royal Air Force which are in the Forward Fleet and considered Fit for Purpose are detailed in the following table. Forward Fleet aircraft are those that are available to the Front Line Command for operational and training purposes (i.e. those not in depth maintenance). Aircraft defined as Fit for Purpose are those considered capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date.

	Forward Fleet	*Fit for Purpose*
Royal Navy	121	63
Army Air Corps	166	106
Royal Air Force	82	53

The figures shown are the average for the month of September 2007. The number of helicopters Fit for Purpose will vary from day to day due, primarily, to routine maintenance requirements. Operational capability is measured in terms of flying hours rather than the number of airframes available.

These figures do not include the six RAF Merlin helicopters recently acquired from Denmark or the eight RAF Chinook Mark 3 helicopters that are being converted to a Battlefield Support role, as announced by the Secretary of State on 30 March 2007.

Military Airfields

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to conclude his review of military airfields; and if he will make a statement. [162966]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As my predecessor told the hon. Member on 23 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1530W, there will not be a single report on the outcome of the defence airfield review. The work is being taken forward through a series of business cases assessing the

best configuration of airfields both operationally and in value for money terms, for a number of future aircraft types. I will inform the House of these individual studies when they complete.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; who the chairman is of each; and to what salary, including bonuses and expenses, each chairman is entitled. [163618]

Derek Twigg: The information requested, including expenditure for last year, can be found in the supplementary document to the MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07, a copy of which is available on the MOD website at the following link. Information on budgets for this year is a matter for the body in question.

http://www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4C8D6BF8-0805-4F46-9A63-8CFC40660008/0/MOD_non_departmental_publicbodies.pdf

Reserve Forces: Drugs

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many drugs tests on reservist army personnel were *(a)* carried out and *(b)* produced positive results in (i) January to June 2006, (ii) July to December 2006 and (iii) January to June 2007, broken down by (A) cocaine positive, (B) cocaine only positive, (C) cannabis positive, (D) cannabis only positive, (E) ecstasy positive and (F) ecstasy only positive. [162162]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following tables give the number of drug tests on Territorial Army personnel showing positive results for cocaine, cannabis and ecstasy, and combinations of those drugs with others for the periods requested:

	Total tests taken
1 January-30 June 2006	793
1 July-31 December 2006	1,069
1 January-30 June 2007	399

	Positive results		
Drug type	*1 January-30 June 2006*	*1 July-31 December 2006*	*1 January-30 June 2007*
Cocaine	2	2	2
Cocaine and Ecstasy	0	0	0
Cocaine, Ecstasy and Cannabis	0	0	0
Cocaine, Ecstasy and other	0	0	0
Cocaine and Cannabis	1	1	0
Cocaine, Cannabis and other	0	0	0
Cocaine and other	0	0	0
Ecstasy	0	0	0
Ecstasy and Cannabis	0	0	0
Ecstasy, Cannabis and other	0	0	0
Ecstasy and other	0	1	0
Cannabis	8	1	2
Other	0	1	0
Total positive results	11	6	4

These results do not include Territorial Army personnel serving with regular forces, who are tested alongside their regular colleagues and their test results recorded as part of the overall unit results.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the length of the school day is in each academy school; and if he will make a statement. [163565]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect these data.

Academies: Academic Year

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which academies have classes on *(a)* weekends and *(b)* school holidays; and if he will make a statement. [163566]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect these data.

Academies: Fire Prevention

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to publish the Building Bulletin 100—document on sprinklers in schools. [162057]

Jim Knight: Building Bulletin 100—Design for fire safety in schools was published on 9 November 2007.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the expenditure on the Building Schools for the Future programme was (a) in each local authority area and (b) on each school covered by the project in 2006-07; what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for 2007-08 to 2021-22; and if he will make a statement. [163437]

Jim Knight: Details of actual capital expenditure at local authority and school level are not held centrally by the Department. However, the following table shows the capital grant payments, and supported borrowing

allocations, that were made in 2006-07 to local authorities, together with the current forecasts for 2007-08 (these phased payments do not represent the full allocations):

£ million

	2006-07		2007-08	
	Capital grant	Supported borrowing	Capital grant (forecasts)	Supported borrowing
Wave 1				
Bradford	2.587	—	2.847	—
Bristol	0.883	—	5.655	—
Greenwich	8.672	—	20.655	—
Knowsley	0.050	—	0.036	—
Lancashire	0.135	—	0.585	—
Leeds	0.050	—	29.903	—
Leicester	6.180	—	38.000	—
Lewisham	0.460	—	6.084	—
Manchester	34.640	—	92.810	—
Newcastle	0.669	—	26.761	—
Sheffield	4.607	—	13.761	—
Solihull	0.400	—	15.150	—
South Tyneside and Gateshead	0.100	—	0.730	—
Stoke	12.400	—	11.545	—
Sunderland	1.300	—	7.805	—
Waltham Forest	4.327	—	22.996	—
Wave 2				
Birmingham A	0.050	13.531	—	—
Hackney	0.050	9.512	3.768	—
Haringey (wave 2 and 4)	11.653	13.675	20.024	—
Islington	0.050	11.383	9.331	—
Kingston on Hull	—	20.713	—	—
Lambeth	6.117	7.022	34.207	—
Liverpool	0.427	14.017	4.757	—
Middlesbrough	0.050	7.982	0.050	—
Nottingham	0.050	8.149	—	—
Tower Hamlets	0.050	3.300	0.050	—
Wave 3				
Barnsley	—	—	0.100	19.224
Bradford	—	—	—	11.206
Durham (east)	0.050	—	8.834	10.782
Derbyshire (NE)	—	—	—	7.389
Kent	—	—	10.646	11.919
Lewisham	—	—	0.145	6.785
Luton	—	—	—	9.324
N Lincolnshire	—	—	—	6.783
Salford	—	—	0.050	11.309
Sandwell	0.050	—	0.050	13.289
Southwark	10.013	—	—	2.298
Tameside	0.050	—	0.050	7.555
Westminster	0.100	—	2.787	9.954
Wave 4				
Coventry	—	—	0.050	—
Manchester	—	—	2.130	—
Rochdale	—	—	0.050	—
Sheffield	—	—	0.050	—
Telford and Wrekin	—	—	0.050	—

For PFI projects, full detail of phasing of capital investment is not held centrally. The following table provides details of indicative allocations of PFI credits for wave 1 to 3 projects, with work continuing for waves 4 to 6:

£ million

BSF waves 1 to 3	PFI credits
Wave 1	
Bradford	116.9
Bristol	157.2
Greenwich	183.5
Knowsley	250.0
Lancashire	246.4
Leeds	185.7
Leicester	151.3
Lewisham (wave 1 and 3)	221.3
Newcastle	81.4
Newham	65.5
Sheffield	89.0
Solihull	86.8
S Tyneside & Gateshead	112.6
Waltham Forest	53.9
Wave 2	
Birmingham	92.4
Islington	103.9
Kingston on Hull	152.8
Nottingham	66.6
Wave 3	
Barnsley	334.3
Durham (east)	79.5
Derbyshire (NE)	55.4
Kent	98.8
Luton	32.0
Salford	134.0
Sandwell	59.8
Southwark	83.0
Tameside	119.0

The Department, together with Partnerships for Schools, will be reviewing the phasing of grant payments for 2008-09, and for later years, to ensure that local authorities receive their allocations in time to deliver their projects successfully. Over the CSR07 period capital support of £9.3 billion will be available to deliver the BSF and academies programmes. Resources beyond that will be subject to future spending decisions.

Classroom Assistants: Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the average levels of *(a)* pay and *(b)* qualifications for school teaching assistants; and if he will make a statement. [163312]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on his

Department's new progress targets; what consultation has been carried out in relation to these targets; and when they will be implemented. [163542]

Jim Knight: The Government's aim is a society where all children and young people achieve their full potential. There have been major improvements in educational standards at all Key Stages over the last 10 years. However, the improvements of the past decade have not been uniform for all groups of children and young people. We expect the ambitious new progression targets, set out in the recent Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), to be a major factor in helping all pupils—regardless of their background and circumstances—to realise their potential in English and mathematics in particular.

Indicator: Proportion of pupils progressing by 2 levels in English and maths at each of Key Stages 2, 3 and 4 National target: Increase the proportion of pupils progressing by 2 levels in English and maths at each of Key Stages 2, 3 and 4 by 2011

	English 2006 baseline (%)	*English 2011 target (%)*	*English percentage points increase*	*Mathematics 2006 baseline (%)*	*Mathematics 2011 target (%)*	*Mathematics percentage points increase*
Key Stage 2	81	90	+9	73	84	+11
Key Stage 3	30	46	+16	62	74	+12
Key Stage 4	56	71	+15	27	40	+13

The Delivery Agreements, published as part of the CSR, and which set out how the Government expects to make its public service agreements a reality, were the subject of wide discussion with a variety of stakeholders. In addition, the proposal to test ways of measuring individual pupil progress was set out in our 2005 White Paper "Higher Standards—Better Schools for All", and in the more recent consultation document on "Making Good Progress".

The first progression targets will be set by all schools in autumn 2007 for outcomes in tests and examinations in 2009.

Dyslexia

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools in the UK have a specialist dyslexia teacher with a relevant British Dyslexia Association approved qualification; [163005]

(2) how many hours of training on average were undertaken by teachers on dyslexia awareness in 2006-07. [163360]

Jim Knight: The information is not collected centrally.

Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities were deemed to be underperforming on educational services as at 30 June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [163571]

Jim Knight: Ofsted assess the performance of each local authority's children's services each year and award a performance rating. Their latest such ratings, published in the Audit Commission's February 2007 report on comprehensive performance assessment of councils in 2006, assessed children's services in Bristol, Sandwell and Stoke-on-Trent to be inadequate. No separate rating was awarded for educational services. The Government consider on a case by case basis what steps are necessary to improve inadequate services.

Educational Visits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school trips abroad were made by schools in each *(a)* Government region and *(b)* local education authority in each of the last 10 years. [163439]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not collected centrally.

English Language: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many complaints have been made to him about the marking of Key Stage 3 English SATs in 2007; [163204]

(2) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* consistency and *(b)* quality of the marking of Key Stage 3 English tests; and if he will make a statement. [163444]

Jim Knight: The Department has received two complaints about the marking of scripts from the Key Stage 3 English tests in May 2007. The National Assessment Agency (NAA) is responsible for the external marking of National Curriculum test scripts and has arrangements in place for schools to seek a review of the marking of test scripts if they find evidence that the mark scheme has not been properly applied. Monitoring of the quality and consistency of test marking is a matter for the NAA.

Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the merits and the costs of providing free school meals; [163184]

(2) which schools in *(a)* Somerset, *(b)* Surrey and *(c)* Derbyshire have free school meal eligibility of above 20 per cent.; what their level of funding per pupil is in each case; and if he will make a statement. [163313]

Jim Knight: Free school meals provide additional help to children in non-working families, that is, those where the adults do not work, or work for less than 16

hours per week. The Government believe that these families are most in need and should therefore receive the additional help that free school meals provide. We have no plans to change the criteria for free school meals or extend them to all pupils.

Information on the schools in *(a)* Somerset, *(b)* Surrey and *(c)* Derbyshire that have free school meal eligibility of above 20 per cent. is provided in the attached table. The Department does not collect information on the level of funding per pupil in individual local authority areas in relation to free school meals.

Maintained primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units: schools in Surrey with more than 20 per cent. of pupils eligible for free school meals, as at January 2007

URN	LEA number	Estab number	School name	School type
130374	936	7063	Thornchace School	Community Special
124916	936	1100	Fordway Centre	Pupil Referral Unit
124917	936	1101	Phoenix Centre	Pupil Referral Unit
125464	936	7027	Starhurst School	Community Special
125116	936	2940	Ash Grange Primary School	Community
132758	936	2963	Guildford Grove Primary School	Community
125127	936	2951	Epsom Downs Primary School and Children's Centre	Community
125480	936	7065	Philip Southcote School	Community Special
125115	936	2939	Weyfield Primary School	Community
125466	936	7035	Wey House School	Community Special
134557	936	3935	Walton Oak Primary School	Community
124919	936	1103	Sidlow Bridge Centre	Pupil Referral Unit
125002	936	2278	St. John's Primary School	Community
125107	936	2928	Hythe Primary School	Community
125461	936	7023	The Park School	Community Special
125185	936	3349	St. Mark's CofE Primary School	Voluntary aided
125018	936	2333	Cordwalles Junior School	Community
125243	936	3925	Bramley CofE Aided Infant School	Voluntary aided
125472	936	7051	Brooklands School	Community Special
125006	936	2292	Lorrsine School	Community
124923	936	1107	Guildford Centre	Pupil Referral Unit
125468	936	7043	Walton Leigh School	Community Special
125105	936	2926	Broadmere Community Primary School	Community
125117	936	2941	Westfield Primary School	Community
131647	936	1119	South East Surrey Pupil Referral Unit	Pupil Referral Unit
125456	936	7011	St. Joseph's School	Non-Maintained Special
125162	936	2962	St. John's CE Community Primary School	Voluntary controlled
125125	936	2949	Chandlers Field Primary School	Community
135009	936	3940	Leatherhead Trinity School	Voluntary controlled
125064	936	2444	Pine Ridge Infant and Nursery School	Community
125126	936	2950	Town Farm Primary School	Community

Maintained primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units: schools in Somerset with more than 20 per cent. of pupils eligible for free school meals, as at January 2007

URN	LEA number	Estab number	School name	School type	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals
134518	933	1106	Yeovil Centre	Pupil Referral Unit	66.7
123707	933	2215	Halcon Community Primary School	Community	54.5
135094	933	1117	Taunton KS2/3 Centre (Rollercoaster Centre)	Pupil Referral Unit	50.0
123709	933	2219	Priorswood Primary School	Community	42.2
123939	933	7006	The Priory School	Community Special	37.3
134519	933	1107	Bridgwater Key Stage 3 Centre	Pupil Referral Unit	36.4
123938	933	7003	Elmwood School	Community Special	36.2
123731	933	2323	Sedgemoor Manor Infants' School	Community	35.6
123739	933	2332	Holway Park Community Primary School	Community	34.6
123733	933	2325	Westover Green Community School	Community	34.2
123824	933	3288	Archbishop Cranmer Church of England Community Primary School	Voluntary controlled	34.2
123680	933	2156	Hamp Community Junior School	Community	29.0
123781	933	3123	St Peter's Church of England First School	Voluntary controlled	27.0
123940	933	7007	Fairmead School	Community Special	26.2
123860	933	3490	Knights Templar Church of England/Methodist Community School	Voluntary aided	25.6
123900	933	3201	St. John's Church of England Primary School	Voluntary aided	24.5

Maintained primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units: schools in Somerset with more than 20 per cent. of pupils eligible for free school meals, as at January 2007

URN	LEA number	Estab number	School name	School type	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals
123732	933	2324	Sedgemoor Manor Community Junior School	Community	24.2
123942	933	7013	Penrose School	Community Special	24.1
123681	933	2157	Hamp Nursery and Infants' School	Community	23.9
123943	933	7014	Selworthy Special School	Community Special	23.4
123718	933	2300	Barwick and Stoford Community Primary School	Community	22.7
123686	933	2170	Beechfield Infant School	Community	22.3
123729	933	2319	Grass Royal Junior School	Community	22.3
123768	933	3079	St. Michael's Church of England First School	Voluntary controlled	20.9

Source:
School Census

Maintained primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units: schools in Derbyshire with more than 20 per cent. of pupils eligible for free school meals, as at January 2007

URN	LEA number	Estab number	School name	School type	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals
131322	830	7000	Holly House Special School	Community Special	62.5
133690	830	1110	Newhall PRU	Pupil Referral Unit	60.0
133947	830	1111	Creswell Pupil Referral Unit	Pupil Referral Unit	52.9
112693	830	2354	Gamesley Community Primary School	Community	51.5
112569	830	2138	Cotmanhay Junior School	Community	45.3
113033	830	7009	The Delves School	Community Special	44.0
112626	830	2233	Barrow Hill Primary School	Community	42.3
133762	830	1109	Breadsall Support Centre	Pupil Referral Unit	41.2
112661	830	2286	Spire Junior School	Community	40.1
112531	830	2077	Danesmoor Infant School	Community	39.6
112548	830	2104	Creswell Junior School	Community	39.0
113031	830	7005	Brackenfield Special School	Community Special	38.5
113036	830	7012	Stubbin Wood School	Community Special	38.2
112495	830	2004	Ironville and Codnor Park Primary School	Community	37.7
113032	830	7006	Ashgate Croft School	Community Special	36.6
112793	830	2630	Whaley Thorns Primary School	Community	34.2
112609	830	2194	Longwood Community Infant School	Community	33.3
113040	830	7018	Alfreton Park Community Special School	Community Special	32.2
113041	830	7019	Stanton Vale School	Community Special	31.6
112682	830	2329	The Park Junior School	Community	31.5
112627	830	2239	Staveley Junior School	Community	31.1
112564	830	2127	Heath Primary School	Community	30.6
112529	830	2075	Clay Cross Junior School	Community	30.5
112619	830	2219	Brookfield Primary School	Community	30.2
112628	830	2240	Poolsbrook Primary School	Community	30.1
112616	830	2212	Langwith Bassett Primary School	Community	29.7
112601	830	2183	North Wingfield Junior School	Community	29.6
112570	830	2139	Cotmanhay Infant School	Community	29.3
131323	830	7001	Holbrook Centre for Autism	Community Special	29.3
112498	830	2008	Somerlea Park Junior School	Community	29.2
113037	830	7014	Bennerley Fields School	Community Special	29.2
112784	830	2621	Model Village Primary School	Community	29.1
131776	830	2005	Castle View Primary School	Community	29.0
112493	830	2002	Croft Infant School	Community	28.9
112633	830	2249	Springfield Junior School	Community	28.5
112612	830	2202	Ripley Infant School	Community	27.9
112705	830	2372	Norbriggs Primary School	Community	27.5
112620	830	2223	Shirland Primary School	Community	27.0
112806	830	3019	Fairfield Endowed CofE (C) Junior School	Voluntary controlled	27.0
112629	830	2242	Spendwell Infant School	Community	26.9
112630	830	2243	Duckmanton Primary School	Community	26.8
112877	830	2315	Euxton Primary School	Community	26.8
112889	830	3329	St. George's CofE Primary School (VA)	Voluntary aided	26.7
112961	830	4193	Parkside Community School	Community	26.6
112810	830	3025	Christ Church CofE Primary School	Voluntary controlled	26.5

Maintained primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units: schools in Derbyshire with more than 20 per cent. of pupils eligible for free school meals, as at January 2007

URN	LEA number	Estab number	School name	School type	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals
112494	830	2003	Woodbridge Junior School	Community	26.4
112660	830	2285	Spire Nursery and Infant School	Community	26.0
112863	830	3099	Winster CofE Primary School	Voluntary controlled	25.8
112528	830	2074	Clay Cross Infant School	Community	25.0
112509	830	2045	New Bolsover Primary and Nursery School	Community	24.4
112492	830	2000	Leys Junior School	Community	24.3
112672	830	2306	The Park Infant School	Community	24.1
112801	830	3012	Bolsover Church of England Junior School	Voluntary controlled	24.0
112499	830	2009	Somercotes Infant School	Community	23.9
112982	830	5208	Fairmeadows Foundation Primary School	Foundation	23.8
112558	830	2119	Langley Mill Junior School	Community	23.0
112671	830	2299	William Rhodes Primary School	Community	23.0
112562	830	2125	Martpool Infant School	Community	22.9
112610	830	2196	Anthony Bek Community Primary School	Community	22.6
134910	830	1112	KS4 Support Centre	Pupil Referral Unit	22.5
112775	830	2514	Whitecotes Primary School	Community	22.4
112946	830	4168	Bennerley School	Community	22.4
112911	830	3521	St. Margaret's Catholic Primary	Voluntary aided	22.2
112965	830	4199	Shirebrook School	Community	22.2
112649	830	2270	Whitwell Primary School	Community	21.7
112659	830	2283	Cavendish Junior School	Community	21.7
112689	830	2340	Sawley Junior School	Community	21.3
112702	830	2369	Sandiacre Cloudside Junior School	Community	21.3
112901	830	3505	Saint Mary's Catholic Primary	Voluntary aided	21.2
112532	830	2079	Clowne Junior School	Community	21.1
112687	830	2336	Copthorne Community Infant School	Community	21.0
112777	830	2517	Dunston Primary School	Community	20.9
112655	830	2278	Woodville Infant School	Community	20.7
112879	830	3308	Newbold CofE VA Primary School	Voluntary aided	20.7
112824	830	3042	Hartshorne CofE Primary School	Voluntary controlled	20.6
112966	830	4200	Springwell Community School	Community	20.3
112699	830	2362	Fairfield Infant and Nursery School	Community	20.2
112694	830	2356	Elmsleigh Infant and Nursery School	Community	20.1

Source:
School Census

Further Education

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on his proposals for education of children aged 16 and over; and if he will make a statement. [163160]

Jim Knight: We received representations from a range of individuals and organisations. The main groups include: young people, parents and carers, educational institutions and learning providers, local authorities, careers advisers, employers, and trade unions. The consultation report was published on 24 July and a copy was placed in the House Library.

Languages: Curriculum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress his Department has made in reaching its objective that between 50 and 90 per cent. of a school's Key Stage 4 cohort should study a foreign language leading to a recognised qualification. [163296]

Jim Knight: We have recently implemented a range of measures recommended by the Languages Review led by Lord Bearing and Lid King, the Department's National Director for Languages, to improve the take up of languages at GCSE. OFSTED have recently amended the self evaluation form to include a section about languages enabling schools to report their progress towards the 50 to 90 per cent. benchmark. We also wrote to School Improvement Partners in July and provided them with a toolkit to help them in their role of support and challenge over languages take-up in schools where appropriate. Two new languages indicators measuring attainment and participation in languages will be included in the Key Stage 4 achievement and attainment tables from 2008.

Music: Curriculum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on his plans for music education in schools. [163322]

Jim Knight: A number of initiatives were announced at the "State of Play" event on 16 January as the Government's

initial response to the second Music Manifesto report. These included an additional £10 million this year to raise the profile of singing.

In July a consortium of Youth Music, The Sage Gateshead, Faber Music and advertising agency Abbot Mead Vickers was awarded the tender to manage the new National Singing Programme. Further announcements about our plans to support music education in schools will be made in due course.

Private Education: Fees and Charges

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the average cost of a day place at a private school. [163307]

Jim Knight: We do not collect information on the average cost of a day place at an independent school, neither is it feasible to produce an estimate from the data we collect. At January 2007 the Annual Schools' Census showed fees charged by schools catering mainly for children without special educational needs fell between nil and £33,974 per annum. Fees in independent schools catering for children with complex needs can be considerably higher.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of how many local authorities are currently discharging each of their responsibilities in respect of permanently excluded children; and if he will make a statement. [163188]

Jim Knight: We expect all local authorities to discharge their new statutory duty to make suitable, full-time education provision for permanently excluded pupils from the sixth day of their exclusion. We will provide support, through the national strategies, for any local authority that fails to do this.

School Improvement Partners

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate of the total annual cost of school improvement partners is; and if he will make a statement. [163190]

Jim Knight: The main cost of the school improvement partner programme is the cost to local authorities of deploying school improvement partners to the schools they maintain. This deployment is bound up with local authorities' wider school improvement responsibilities. Since using school improvement partners is generally more expensive than operating local authorities' previous arrangements, the Department provides a subsidy for the school improvement partner function within its funding to local authorities. For 2007-08, the cost of the subsidy is £15,803,938. The school improvement partner function also has a national component, mainly focused on national accreditation of school improvement partners and on quality assurance of local management of the function. For 2007-08, the cost of this national component is £7,651,200. The 2008-09 figure will certainly be lower, because in that year we will no longer have to build up the cadre of accredited school improvement partners; roll-out is due to be completed by April 2008.

School Leaving

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* young people and *(b)* all people consulted by his Department (i) supported, (ii) opposed and (ii) neither supported nor opposed the Government's proposal to extend the education leaving age to 18 years; and if he will make a statement. [163323]

Jim Knight: We received a total of 473 written responses to 'Raising Expectations' in the formal full consultation, and just under 1,000 written responses from young people in response to the magazine 'Reach', the additional young people's materials we developed. These included 14 group responses, representing a total of 805 young people.

In response to the question of whether they supported the Green Paper's central proposal to raise the participation age to 18, in the written response to 'Raising Expectations', 44 per cent. (202 people) were in agreement with the proposal, compared to 40 per cent. (186 people) who were opposed and 16 per cent. (76 people) who were unsure.

In the written responses to the young people's materials, 47 per cent. (450 young people) were against, 36 per cent. (345 young people) agreed and 17 per cent. (165 young people) were not sure.

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make an estimate of the number of 17 year olds who are likely to truant each year in the event of the school leaving age being raised to 18 years. [163651]

Jim Knight: The Department has not estimated the number of 17-year-olds likely to be absent from education or training in 2015, once we raise the participation age to 18. The Green Paper "Raising Expectations: staying in education and training post-16" was published in March, setting out our proposals for all young people to continue in learning until they are 18, and a further "From policy to legislation" document was published on 5 November. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. Under these proposals, if a young person is persistently absent from learning or drops out altogether, the learning provider will be required to inform the local authority, so that guidance services can contact the young person and support to re-engage can be provided as soon as possible.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish research his Department has conducted on the capital costs of increasing the education leaving age to 18 years; and if he will make a statement. [163756]

Jim Knight: In March the Department published an Initial Regulatory Impact Assessment alongside the Green Paper "Raising Expectations: staying in education and training post-16", both of which have been placed in the Library of the House. In it we anticipated that an additional £81 million would be needed to build the new facilities necessary over the years leading up to implementation. These projections are being revised and independently reviewed before being published in the Impact Assessment that will accompany the Education and Skills Bill.

School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of school meal costs on school meal uptake in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement; [163183]

(2) what targets he has set for school meal uptake for each year until 2015; what steps he is taking to reach these targets; and if he will make a statement. [163567]

Jim Knight: This Department has not made an assessment of the impact of school meal costs on school meal uptake in each of the last three years. However, increasing take-up of school lunches is a priority for this Department and for the School Food Trust (SFT). The SFT has a target to increase take-up of school lunches from a 2005-06 baseline by 4 percentage points by March 2008 and by 10 percentage points by autumn 2009. In addition, school lunch take-up is now one of the indicators in the Local Government National Indicator Set from which local authorities and their partners will agree their own targets in their Local Area Agreements.

An additional £240 million will be available to authorities and schools between 2008 and 2011 to help keep down the cost of a school lunch and the Secretary of State recently wrote to all Headteachers and Chairs of Governors, and to all Directors of Children's Services, urging them to actively support their school lunch services. The SFT already has activity underway to promote school lunches and generate demand, such as their 'Million Meals' campaign; cooking clubs for parents and children; Disney posters in schools, and a teenage marketing campaign.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate is of the cost of introducing the nutrient standards for school meals in each year between 2006-07 and 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [163568]

Jim Knight: In its report "Turning the Tables: Transforming School Food" (published in September 2005), the School Meals Review Panel (SMRP) estimated that the revenue cost (including ingredients, labour, training, marketing and waste) of introducing the new nutritional standards for school food would be £167.2 million in the first year and £158.8 million a year in subsequent years. The costs are higher in year one to reflect additional expenditure on staff training. The SMRP figures assume no increase in take-up of school meals and no efficiency savings.

The costs of school lunches are rightly met by authorities, schools, parents and carers. However, the Government are investing an additional £500 million between 2005 and 2011 to support the improvement of school food.

Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools there are in each (i) Government region and (ii) local education authority. [163428]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in table 11 of the additional information section of SFR30/2007, Schools and Pupils in England, January 2007 (Final). This SFR was published on 27 September 2007 and can be found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml.

Schools: Capital Investment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what capital expenditure on schools per pupil was in each English *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority in each year from 1997-98 to 2006-07 in real terms using 2005-06 prices; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for 2007-08 to 2014-15. [163435]

Jim Knight: The Department does not maintain records of capital expenditure on schools on a per pupil local authority basis. The Department has published information, in the Departmental Report 2007, on capital funding per maintained school pupil in England for the years 1997-98 to 2007-08. This is set out in the table.

The following table is taken from Table 8.6, on page 106 of the Department for Education and Skills Departmental Report 2007.

	Funds per maintained pupil (£)	
	Real terms	*Percentage real terms increase on 1997-98*
Actual		
1997-98	120	—
1998-99	170	142
1999-2000	220	183
2000-01	340	283
2001-02	350	292
2002-03	500	417
2003-04	570	475
2004-05	660	550
2005-06	700	583
Estimated outturn		
2006-07	650	542
Plans		
2007-08	820	683

Note:
Real terms figures have been calculated using the March 2007 Gross Domestic Product deflators with 2005-06 as the base year.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were *(a)* permanently and *(b)* temporarily excluded from school for physical assault against (i) a pupil and (ii) an adult in (A) 2003-04, (B) 2004-05, (C) 2005-06 and (D) 2006-07. [163454]

Jim Knight: The available information is shown in the following table.

Data for 2007/08 will be available in June 2008.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: Number and percentage of permanent and fixed period exclusions for assault against pupils and adults—England, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2005/06

	Number of exclusions for:	
	Physical assault against an adult	*Physical assault against a pupil*
2003/04		
Number of permanent exclusions[3]	1,190	1,720
Percentage of all permanent exclusions[3,4]	12	17
Number of fixed period exclusions	15,990	69,020
Percentage of all fixed period exclusions[3]	5	20
2004/05		
Number of permanent exclusions[3]	1,270	1,780
Percentage of all permanent exclusions[3,4]	13	19
Number of fixed period exclusions	18,480	80,700
Percentage of all fixed period exclusions[3]	13	21
2005/06—Maintained secondary schools only[5]		
Number of permanent exclusions[3]	740	1,260
Percentage of all permanent exclusions[3]	9	16
Number of fixed period exclusions	8,240	62,670
Percentage of all fixed period exclusions	16	18

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained special schools. Excludes non-maintained special schools.
[3] The number of exclusions by reason expressed as a percentage of the total number of exclusions.
[4] The distribution of exclusions by reason has been derived from Termly Exclusions Survey and applied to the number of permanent exclusions as confirmed by local authorities as part of the Annual Schools Census data checking exercise.
[5] For the 2005/06 school year, information on the reason for exclusion was collected via the School Census for the first time for secondary schools only (the Termly Exclusions Survey has discontinued). For exclusions during 2006/07, information on the reason for exclusion will also be collected from primary and special schools.

Schools: Fire Prevention

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families from what date all new primary and secondary schools are required to have fire sprinklers installed; and if he will publish the links to the websites containing *(a)* the risk analysis and *(b)* the cost-benefit analysis tools referred to in the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 308W, on schools: fire prevention. [162335]

Jim Knight: It was expected that from 1 March 2007 the designs of all new school buildings would include sprinklers unless it could be shown that there was a very low risk and therefore no benefit to install sprinklers.

The risk analysis and the cost-benefit analysis tools will be available for download from

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/resourcesfinanceandbuilding/schoolbuildings/stat/firesafetyforschools/

on 9 November 2007.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the statement by the Minister for Schools and Learning, the hon. Member for South Dorset (Jim Knight) in the adjournment debate on 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1180, on fire precautions (schools), what progress he has made in identifying the very low risk schools which do not need fire sprinklers installed; if he will detail the methodology he is using to determine risk; what very low risk schools he has already identified which do not need fire sprinklers installed; and if he will make a statement. [162337]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold data on which schools do not have sprinklers installed. It is for local authorities to carry out the risk assessments. The risk assessment methodology is described in the risk assessment tools and in Building Bulletin 100.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will make a statement on the operation of the proposed academic diplomas; how many separate subjects will have to be taught for these in respect of each diploma for those pupils above Key Stage 4; and what financial provision he proposes to make for the diplomas; [163297]

(2) what diplomas he intends to have in place by the years *(a)* 2013 and *(b)* 2015; [163290]

(3) what subjects will be studied by students taking the new diplomas in *(a)* science, *(b)* languages and *(c)* humanities; and if he will make a statement; [163540]

(4) what subjects will be studied as part of the new diplomas in *(a)* construction and the built environment, *(b)* creative arts and media, *(c)* engineering, *(d)* information technology and *(e)* society, health and development; and if he will make a statement; [163533]

(5) what plans he has to introduce the formal teaching of modern languages at an earlier stage in the schools system. [163451]

Jim Knight: By 2013 we will have 17 14-19 diplomas in place. We currently expect to have the same number in place by 2015.

The policy statement attached to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families' written ministerial statement of 23 October, set out our intention to establish a Diploma Development Partnership (DDP) to specify the content for each of the new diplomas, consulting with a wide range of partners and stakeholders. This will start work in the new year. In order to specify the design structure and principles within which this DDP will work, we have created an expert advisory group to work with us over the next few months to develop the DDP terms of reference.

Students following any of the diploma programmes will have the opportunity to study a broad spectrum of topics relevant to their chosen sector, or area of study.

The core of each diploma is the "Principal Learning" element. All students will also undertake a programme of generic learning which includes personal, learning and thinking skills and functional skills (in English, maths and information technology). diploma students will be able to personalise their learning by adding "Additional and Specialist Learning", which can develop depth and breadth of study. The personalisation of each student's learning programme is a key feature of the diploma structure.

Curriculum guidance has been published for the first five diplomas, ahead of first teaching in September 2008. The full specifications for each of the first five lines of learning , accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, can be viewed on the National Database of Accredited Qualifications at:

http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk/DiplomaCatalogueSelection.aspx

Indicative levels of funding for 2008-11 for 14-19 learning, including diplomas, have been identified within the Government's comprehensive spending review (CSR). The details of the additional funds to be allocated for diplomas are being finalised as part of firming up precise allocations within the indicative settlement. We expect to be able to announce levels of funding available by the new year, well before the end of the 2007-08 financial year.

Teachers: Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the teachers' pension scheme is funded out of the budget for his Department; and if he will make a statement. [163292]

Jim Knight: The Teachers' Pensions Scheme (TPS) is an unfunded scheme. The budget for the associated costs is contained in the separate Teachers' Pension Scheme (England and Wales) Supply Estimate which is managed by this Department. The total income and expenditure are classed as Departmental Resource Annually Managed Expenditure (AME).

The budget in the Supply Estimate covers the following non-cash costs:

Current service cost (increase in the pension scheme liability as a result of teachers' service in the current year)

Interest on scheme liabilities (unwinding the discount on the scheme liability)

Increase in the pensions liability as a result of purchase of added years or transfers in from other pension schemes

Increase in the premature retirement liability

The expenditure is largely offset by income from employers and members, in the form of contributions.

The pension benefits paid to retired teachers and costs related to groups and individuals transferring out of the scheme are met from the pension liability provision on the balance sheet and do not score in a departmental expenditure limit.

Teachers: Working Hours

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average number of hours worked per week was for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teachers in each of the last five years. [163427]

Jim Knight: The following table details the estimated average total hours worked per week by full-time teachers over the last five years. The fall in hours worked by secondary heads and deputy heads from 2006 to 2007 is statistically significant; no other categories of teacher saw a significant change in the hours they worked between 2006 and 2007.

Total hours worked per week

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Primary					
Head teachers	55.5	55.6	52.9	53.5	54.2
Deputy heads	56.4	55.7	55.7	53.4	51.4
Classroom teachers	51.8	52.5	50.9	50.1	51.5
Secondary					
Head teachers	60.9	60.8	62.6	65.1	57.6
Deputy head	56.5	54.1	58.1	61.0	53.6
Heads of faculty/ department	52.7	51.6	51.2	51.5	50.2
Classroom teachers	50.8	49.9	49.3	49.1	48.7

Note:
The estimates are derived from the diary returns of about 2,000 randomly selected teachers in primary, secondary and special schools in England and Wales. In 2007, the diaries were completed during a single week in March; in previous years the survey ran in comparable weeks. Total hours worked include the time taken to complete the diary which on average took about an hour.

The changes in total hours that are statistically significant (at 95 per cent. level) are for:

Primary deputy heads between 2007 and estimates for all previous years.

Primary classroom teachers between 2007 and 2004.

Secondary head teachers between 2007 and estimates for all previous years.

Secondary deputy heads between 2007 and all previous estimates except 2004.

Secondary heads of faculty/department between 2007 and 2003.

Secondary classroom teachers between 2007 and 2003.

The full report for the School Teachers' Review Body on Teachers' workloads diary survey, 2007 can be found at:

http://www.ome.uk.com/downloads/2007%20Teachers%20Report%20FINAL.pdf

Truancy: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the level of truancy was by *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in local education authorities in (i) Hampshire, (ii) Southampton and (iii) Portsmouth in each year since 1997, broken down by sex; how many days were lost; and if he will make a statement. [162421]

Jim Knight: The Department does not maintain records of 'truancy'. Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

The available information is provided in the tables and relates to a selection of years between 1997/98 to 2005/06.

The first year for which absence rates by gender are available is 2005/06. The coverage of this information is secondary schools only. Absence rates by gender for 2006/07 will be available in February 2008, and the scope will extend to also include primary schools.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Percentage of half days missed 1997/98,1999/2000, 2001/02, 2003/04, Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton local authority areas 2004/05

	Primary schools		Secondary schools	
	Percentage of half days missed:		Percentage of half days missed:	
	Due to authorised absence	Due to unauthorised absence	Due to authorised absence	Due to unauthorised absence
Hampshire local authority area				
1997/98	4.9	0.3	6.9	0.8
1999/2000	4.5	0.3	6.6	0.8
2001/02	4.7	0.4	7.0	1.1
2003/04	4.5	0.3	6.4	1.1
2004/05	4.7	0.3	6.2	1.2
Southampton local authority area				
1997/98	6.0	0.9	7.9	1.1
1999/2000	5.7	0.8	8.5	1.1
2001/02	6.3	0.8	8.7	1.3
2003/04	5.6	0.7	7.7	1.2
2004/05	5.7	0.8	7.4	1.9
Portsmouth local authority area				
1997/98	6.6	0.8	9.5	1.9
1999/2000	5.4	0.8	8.4	1.8
2001/02	5.4	0.7	9.4	1.6
2003/04	5.1	0.8	8.2	1.9
2004/05	5.2	0.8	7.5	1.8

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

Source:
Survey of Absence in Schools

Maintained secondary schools[1]: Pupil absence by gender[2] 2005/06

	Secondary schools		
	Percentage of half days missed:		
	Due to authorised absence	Due to unauthorised absence	Due to overall absence
Hampshire local authority area			
Boys	6.45	1.41	7.86
Girls	6.85	1.44	8.29
Total	6.65	1.42	8.07
Southampton local authority area			
Boys	7.23	2.12	9.35
Girls	7.35	1.93	9.28
Total	7.29	2.02	9.31
Portsmouth local authority area			
Boys	7.92	2.15	10.07
Girls	7.60	2.67	10.28
Total	7.76	2.41	10.17

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes pupils aged five to 15. Excludes boarders.

Source:
School Census

Vocational Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on his Department's plans to place new duties on employers in relation to education and training for young people between the ages of 16 and 18 years. [163324]

Jim Knight: We will legislate through the Education and Skills Bill, announced in the Queen's Speech last week, to require all young people to continue in education or training until the age of 18, from 2015. There will be no duties on employers if they employ a 16 or 17-year-old for less than 20 hours a week, or if they provide accredited training. If they employ a young person for more than that, without training, the young person will need to provide evidence that they are in learning before they can start employment, and the employer will need to check this. The employer will also need to release the young person from work for the equivalent of a day each week so that they can train elsewhere, and will not be required to pay them for this time.

The Secretary of State and I published the document "Raising Expectations: staying in education and training post-16—From policy to legislation" on 5 November. This sets out our plans to raise the participation age and the aspects that require a change in the law. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of his departmental staff were previously employed by other departments, broken down by the other departments concerned. [161932]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was created as part of the machinery of government changes announced on 28 June 2007. The change involved the transfer of 536 staff from the Department for Education and Skills (a proportion of 69 per cent. of the staff) and 243 staff from the Department of Trade and Industry (31 per cent. of staff).

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of staff formerly employed by the Department for Education and Skills is now employed by his Department. [162817]

Mr. Lammy: 69 per cent. of staff in the Department were formerly employed in the Department for Education and Skills.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will list the 10 highest salaries paid by his Department and its predecessor since January 2007. [161908]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was created as a result of the machinery of government changes in June.

The top 10 highest paid salaries for staff transferring to the new Department are detailed in the following table.

Number	£ *Annual salary*
1	154,053.00
2	151,137.00
3	131,963.00
4	131,589.00
5	128,250.00
6	115,265.00
7	112,200.00
8	105,280.00
9	98,820.00
10	98,773.00

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the total wage cost was of his Department's predecessor in 1997; and what it is expected to be for his Department in 2007. [161909]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) came into existence this year and we are, therefore, unable to provide total wage costs back to 1997. We estimate that the total paybill outturn for DIUS in 2007-08 will be around £47million.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of serious alcohol dependency in the general population was in each of the last 10 years; and what the expenditure was on treatment and rehabilitation for people dependent on alcohol outside the criminal justice system over the same period. [162874]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Alcohol Needs Assessment Research Project published in November 2005, found that in 2003-04, a total of £217 million was being invested by the national health service and local authorities in specialist alcohol treatment. In that year, 63,000 people received treatment for alcohol-related disorders and around 1.1 million people were actually dependent on alcohol.

Animal Experiments

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will hold discussions with wholesale manufacturers of health products to introduce mandatory labelling for products that have been *(a)* tested on animals and *(b)* not tested on animals. [162034]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government have no plans to meet with pharmaceutical companies to discuss this issue.

Medical Devices are regulated under the Medical Devices Regulations 2002 which transpose three main European Union medical devices directives into UK law. The regulations control the first placing on the market and/ or putting into service of medical devices by manufacturers. The directives place various labelling requirements on medical device manufacturers but these do not include the requirement to indicate whether the device was tested on animals or not. To make such a requirement mandatory would require a change to European legislation.

Campylobacter

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the transmission routes of *(a)* campylobacter and *(b)* listeria in the human population. [162912]

Dawn Primarolo: Published figures on trends in indigenous foodborne disease and deaths in England and Wales, 1992-2000[1] include estimates that 80 per cent. of *Campylobacter* and 99 per cent. of *Listeria monocytogenes* infections in humans are foodborne.

Laboratory confirmed *Campylobacter* and *Listeria monocytogenes* human infections are monitored as part of the Food Standards Agency's strategy to reduce foodborne disease.

Source:

[1] Adak GK, Long SM, O'Brien S. Trends in indigenous foodborne disease and deaths, England and Wales:1992 to 2000. Gut 2002;51:832-841.

Cancer: Screening

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the attendance rate for *(a)* breast cancer, *(b)* cervical cancer and *(c)* bowel cancer screening in each year since 2000 was, broken down by primary care trust. [164036]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Chiropody

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether NHS chiropody services are defined as health care; [164247]

(2) if the Government will make an assessment of standards of chiropody services provided by primary care trusts. [164248]

Ann Keen: Chiropody services provided by the national health service are health care.

There are no plans to carry out a central assessment of chiropody services. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, outlined in the national service frameworks and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community, including the provision of chiropody.

Dental Services

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the General Dental Council on whether dental bleaching may be carried out by qualified hygienists or qualified dental auxiliaries after training by a dentist *(a)* in a surgery and *(b)* at a patient's home using surgery-supplied equipment. [163050]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* Under the policy of successive governments that healthcare professions like medicine and dentistry should be self-regulating, the General Dental Council (GDC) is independent of Government. I understand that the GDC considers that tooth whitening constitutes the practice of dentistry and that only registered dentists are suitably trained and competent to carry it out. Dental professionals are required to practice within their respective professional boundaries and to only undertake work which they are trained and competent to do. Any registrant who undertakes work for which they are not sufficiently competent risks fitness to practice proceedings. However, I also understand that the General Dental Council is currently reviewing the scope of practice of dentists and dental care professionals and expects to consult on its proposals in 2008.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes to the system of dental contracts the NHS Dental Contract Implementation Group have introduced in the last 12 months; and what changes they plan to introduce in the next 12 months. [163051]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The Implementation Review Group (IRG) is an external key stakeholder group set up by Ministers to monitor and provide feedback to the Department on the implementation of the reforms. It is for the Department rather than the IRG or any other external stakeholder group to make or plan policy changes.

The role of IRG, which is chaired by the chief dental officer and includes representatives of the dental profession, citizens' organisations and the national health service, is to ensure that key stakeholders have an appropriate collective voice in discussions with the Department on the dental system.

Departmental Board

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* dates, *(b)* locations and *(c)* costs were of the last four away days of his Department's Departmental Board. [162250]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is set out in the table as follows.

Date	*Location*	*Cost (including VAT) (£)*
3/4 May 2007	Thistle Victoria Buckingham Palace Road London SW1W OSJ	4,210.00
25 September 2006	Department of Health Skipton House 80 London Road London SE1 6LH	611.00
6/7 April 2006	Great Fosters Stroude Road Egham Surrey TW20 9UR	3,878.55
6/7 October 2005	Great Fosters Stroude Road Egham Surrey TW20 9UR	3,705.00

Health Services: Elderly

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has issued guidance to primary care trusts on commissioning health services for the elderly since March 2006; and if he will make a statement. [162806]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Commissioning Framework for Health and Well-Being was published for consultation on 7 March 2007. This framework builds on the White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say".

Healthcare Commission

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints have been referred to the Healthcare Commission for independent review in each of the last five financial years. [162828]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Healthcare Commission assumed responsibility for the second (independent review) stage of national health service complaints at the end of July 2004. The number of cases received since then is shown as follows:

	Number
2004-05 (part year only)	5,867
2005-06	7,644
2006-07	7,696
2007-08 (as at 2 November)	4,589

Hearing Aids: Eastern Region

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the most recent waiting times are for digital hearing aid assessment for each primary care trust in the east of England. [162871]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data on waiting times for diagnostic audiological assessments for each primary care trust in the east of England in August 2007 are available in the following tables:

Primary care trust	*Audiological assessments total waiting over six weeks*
Luton PCT	38
South-east Essex	15
Bedfordshire	113
East and north Hertfordshire	87
West Hertfordshire	889
Peterborough	11
Cambridgeshire	389
Norfolk	397
Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching	7
Suffolk	107
West Essex	311
North-east Essex	164
Mid-Essex	27
South-west Essex Teaching	32
East of England	2,587

Strategic health authority	*Audiological assessments total waiting over six weeks*
North-east	7,840
North-west	8,112
Yorkshire and the Humber	7,108
East Midlands	5,170
West Midlands	12,077
East of England	2,587
London	6,339
South-east coast	9,067
South-central	5,087
South-west	11,788
England total	75,175

Source:
Department of Health Monthly Diagnostics

NHS Direct

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls NHS Direct has received in each year since the service was established. [162746]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is available in the following table:

	Calls received (000)	*Visits to NHS Direct Online (000)*
1998-99	110	0
1999-2000	1,650	0
2000-01	3,420	1,500
2001-02	5,213	2,028
2002-03	6,319	3,972
2003-04	6,405	6,542
2004-05	6,586	9,285
2005-06	6,810	13,537
2006-07	6,354	19,280

NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the citizen and patient representatives on the board of the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement. [162197]

Dawn Primarolo: The citizen and patient representative on the board of the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement is Professor Tony Butterworth (non-executive Director).

A number of approaches have been adopted to enable stakeholders to influence the work of the NHS Institute including an involvement framework that sets out its commitment to working with patients and the public.

As part of this framework the NHS Institute has invited key stakeholders, patient representatives, voluntary sector representatives and NHS Institute staff to meet as an 'Involvement Think Tank' to help it take the involvement agenda forward.

NHS: Drugs

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to announce the commissioning of new research into the scale, costs and causes of waste medicines to inform policy development for influencing both health professionals and members of the public to reduce the amount of unwanted medicines as referred to in the answer of 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2084W, on primary care trusts: drugs. [164145]

Dawn Primarolo: Organisations have been invited to submit outline proposals on how to investigate the scale, costs and causes of waste medicines, to inform the development of Government policy for influencing both health professionals and members of the public to reduce the amount of unwanted medicines and provide value for money for the national health service. Invitations to tender were placed in *The Guardian* on 16 October 2007 and in the *Health Service Journal* on 25 October 2007.

NHS: Reform

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what he expects the cost of the clinical summit meeting being organised by Lord Darzi in London on 21 and 22 November 2007 to be. [162088]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The arrangements for the clinical summit are ongoing and the final costs are not yet available.

Nurses: Foreign Workers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is issued to the NHS in relation to the hiring of non-EU/EEA nurses. [162228]

Ann Keen: In 2004 the Department issued the code of practice for the international recruitment of healthcare professionals. This provides a framework for the ethical recruitment and employment of all international healthcare professionals including nurses.

NHS Employers, established in late 2004, is responsible for the publication of practical guidance and advice on workforce issues including the hiring of non-European Union/European economic area nurses.

Nurses: Prescriptions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of nurses in the NHS have been able to prescribe medicines in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [162242]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not collect figures for nurse prescribers centrally. Latest figures provided by the Nursing and Midwifery Council show that there were over 10,800 qualified nurse independent prescribers and almost 27,000 qualified community practitioner nurse prescribers as at 1 November 2007.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to grant free prescriptions for people with *(a)* asthma and *(b)* other long-term illnesses; and if he will make a statement. [162553]

Dawn Primarolo: People are entitled to free prescriptions in respect of a number of long-term medical conditions, if they hold a valid medical exemption certificate. Asthma is not one of these long-term conditions.

The Government's review of prescription charges will be inviting views later this autumn on options for changes to prescription charges that are cost neutral to the national health service.

South East Coast Strategic Health Authority: Marketing

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the total expenditure of the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority, and its predecessor bodies, was on *(a)* public relations agencies, *(b)* public affairs agencies, *(c)* advertising agencies, *(d)* direct marketing agencies and *(e)* other external communications agencies in each of the last five years; [162808]

(2) what the total expenditure of West Sussex Primary Care Trust and its predecessor organisations was on external communications agencies in each of the last five years; [162809]

(3) what contracts the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority has with *(a)* public relations agencies, *(b)* public affairs agencies, *(c)* advertising agencies and *(d)* direct marketing agencies; [162810]

(4) what contracts West Sussex Primary Care Trust has with *(a)* public relations agencies, *(b)* public affairs agencies, *(c)* advertising agencies and *(d)* direct marketing agencies. [162811]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally. However, the hon. Member should contact the local national health service organisations who may be able to provide this information direct.

Thalidomide

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what costs were borne by social services associated with the special adaptation of homes and other facilities for those affected by Thalidomide in each of the last 10 years; [162115]

(2) what costs were borne by social services associated with providing carers and personal assistants for those affected by Thalidomide in each of the last 10 years; [162116]

(3) what direct medical costs were associated with the treatment of the parents of those affected by Thalidomide for conditions associated with their child's condition borne by the NHS in each of the last 10 years; [162117]

(4) how much in direct medical costs was borne by the NHS associated with the treatment of those affected by Thalidomide in each of the last 10 years. [162126]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* Information on the cost of health and social care provision, broken down by specific conditions, is not collected.

West Sussex Primary Care Trust

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether all representations made relating to the West Sussex Primary Care Trust's Fit for the Future consultation before 26 July 2007 will be considered. [164139]

Dawn Primarolo: We would expect West Sussex Primary Care Trust to consider representations made to the PCT both in the pre-consultation phase and in the formal consultation phase.

Worthing Hospital: Accident and Emergency Departments

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the impact on ambulance transfer times in Sussex of the closure of accident and emergency services at Worthing Hospital. [162862]

Dawn Primarolo: It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) in conjunction with other local stakeholders and their strategic health authorities (SHAs) to make assessments of current and future health needs and to commission services accordingly. South East Coast SHA has advised our officials that in this case West Sussex PCT has carried out the assessment.

The hon. Member may wish to approach the PCT directly on this matter.

JUSTICE

Buildings: Access

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which buildings occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to people with disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [163950]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice is presently preparing a new Disability Equality Scheme, which includes what we are doing, and intend to do to continue to make our services and buildings accessible to disabled people. This is due to be published in the new year.

Over recent years the Department has taken a number of steps to make our services and buildings accessible to disabled people. This includes a major programme of works undertaken to ensure all Crown and county courts support disabled people, provision of dedicated parking facilities, hearing loops and personal emergency evacuation plans for disabled staff and visitors to our main HQ buildings. In addition HM Court Service are starting a major programme of works to improve current magistrates court accommodation.

All buildings within HM Prison Service are currently compliant with DDA requirements, both physically and procedurally. Where there are access difficulties whether they be a visitor, staff or prisoner, HMPS is committed to make reasonably adjustments to its arrangements and manage any eventuality that may occur.

Where there are access difficulties for disabled people, the department makes appropriate reasonable adjustments to its arrangements for the recruitment and employment of staff, and the services and functions it delivers to its users, in accordance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

The MOJ estate is made up of a number of new, modern and historic buildings, not all of which are considered to be fully accessible to disabled people. Where there are access or use difficulties on the current estate, MOJ seeks to make it services and facilities available by other means.

No central data are currently held on the number of buildings across the estate that fully support access and use by disabled staff.

Courts Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much HM Courts Service spent in 2006-07 on civilian fines officers; and how much the civilian fines officers recovered in the same period. [163577]

Maria Eagle: In 2006-07 Her Majesty's Courts Service spent a total of £72.5 million on criminal enforcement activity. This expenditure was used to fund the day to day enforcement costs, such as the salaries of court enforcement officers, fines officers and administrative staff, training for staff and IT running costs.

The amount of cash collected for the same period in respect of financial impositions, which include fines, costs, compensation and the victim's surcharge, was £245 million.

It is not possible to identify how much of the above civilian fines officers were responsible for recovering.

Legal Aid: Northern Ireland

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to increase access to legal aid in criminal cases in Northern Ireland. [161982]

Mr. Hanson: In Northern Ireland the judiciary are responsible for determining applications for criminal legal aid applying the statutory tests of whether the applicant has insufficient means and the interests of justice.

In 2005, the most recent year for which statistics are available, 97 per cent. of defendants who applied were granted criminal legal aid. There is therefore no evidence to suggest that there is a need to increase access to criminal legal aid.

Magistrates Courts

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates courts in England and Wales have access to full Libra functionality. [163579]

Maria Eagle: Significant progress has been made this year with Libra rollout. 67 of approximately 370 courts are operating with full Libra functionality, with over 20 per cent. of court staff now using the system. A further 16 courts are due to be live before the end of 2007 and rollout is scheduled to be complete by the end of December 2008.

Magistrates: Public Appointments

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what changes have been made to the process of selecting magistrates in each of the last three years. [163737]

Maria Eagle: The only change made in the last three years was in February 2006 to introduce a scoring system at the second interview.

Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the governing governor of HM Young Offender Institution Feltham is to be appointed as an area manager within HM Prison Service; whether this is a managed move; and if he will make a statement. [163468]

Maria Eagle: There are no vacancies for area manager posts in the Prison Service, but if the governing governor of Feltham wishes to apply for such a post in the future it is open to her to do so.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the exceptional circumstances were that led the Deputy Director General of HM Prison Service to authorise the managed move of *(a)* Phil Riley to

HM Prison Buckley Hall, *(b)* Paul Baker to change manager at HM Prison Pentonville, *(c)* Paul Baker to Deputy Governor at HM Prison Pentonville and *(d)* Gary Deighton to HM Prison Service Professional Standards Unit; and if he will make a statement. [163245]

Mr. Hanson: There were no exceptional circumstances surrounding any of these appointments. Within the public sector Prison Service approximately half of all appointments at senior manager level are made by way of managed appointments as opposed to an internal advertisement. The service has a clear policy on managed appointments at this level and all of these appointments were consistent with the policy and its objectives.

It is not appropriate to comment on individual appointments or transfers which frequently take into account personal circumstances or developmental issues as well as any particular individual skills that a person might bring to a post.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what correspondence has been received by HM Prison Service from Ron Tasker on the commissioning of the investigation that he is carrying out; and if he will make a statement. [163246]

Maria Eagle: On 17 April 2007 Ron Tasker wrote a note to Nick Pascoe, London area manager to seek clarification of who the Commissioning Authority for the investigation was. This is the only recorded correspondence received by HM Prison Service from Mr. Tasker relating to commissioning of the investigation.

Prisoners: Drugs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what drug testing is done on prisoners upon *(a)* arrival and *(b)* leaving prison. [163728]

Mr. Hanson: Some prisons undertake reception testing as part of their mandatory drug testing programme. Prisoners newly received into prison are subject to clinical health assessment, and voluntary indicative drug testing is part of that process. There is no system to test all prisoners before final release. Prisoners may be subjected to mandatory drug testing prior to release on temporary licence as part of a risk assessment. During custody prisoners can be subject to clinical testing, voluntary testing as part of a compact to remain drug free, and random or targeted mandatory drug testing.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of people who have developed a drug addiction in prison over the last 10 years. [163739]

Mr. Hanson: A comprehensive drug treatment framework is in place in prisons which includes offering harm minimisation advice and encouraging prisoners to stay off drugs. The framework is supported by measures to keep drugs out of prison. The covert nature of drug taking means that it is impossible to measure directly the number of people who develop a drug addiction in prison. Research evidence suggests that about one in five men and fewer than one in 10 women, who had used at least one of six drugs (cannabis, heroin, illicit methadone, amphetamine, crack and cocaine) reported first using one of them in prison.

Research also shows that the level of drug misuse falls dramatically compared with use prior to imprisonment and that prison is one of the key influences in getting people off drugs. Overall, prison contributes to a reduction in drug misuse for the majority of prisoners.

Prisoners: Fingerprints

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to his answer of 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 873W, on Prison Service, whether inmates are fingerprinted on reception at *(a)* HM Prison Brixton, *(b)* HM Prison Holloway, *(c)* HM Prison Pentonville, *(d)* HM Prison Wandsworth, *(e)* HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs and *(f)* HM Young Offender Institute Feltham; and if he will make a statement. [163243]

Maria Eagle: Of these prisons, HMP Holloway is currently the only prison which routinely fingerprints prisoners on reception into custody.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to his answer of 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 873W, on Prison Service, whether all prison establishments are required to fingerprint prisoners on reception; and if he will make a statement. [163244]

Maria Eagle: My Department's policy is that all prisoners, with the exception of those committed into custody for a non-payment of a fine, should be fingerprinted upon their first reception to any prison establishment after their conviction. The effectiveness and future strategy of fingerprinting processes within the Prison Service is to be examined, taking into account any additional benefit gained from these processes over the fingerprinting already carried out by the police.

Prisoners: Ireland

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to amend prison rules, orders and instructions relating to Irish prisoners following abolition of the Common Travel Area. [163350]

Maria Eagle: There are no plans to abolish the Common Travel Area.

Prisoners: Nationality

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign prisoners were held in jails in Kent on 31 October. [163789]

Mr. Hanson: The figures requested are published quarterly at the Ministry of Justice website at: www.justice.gov.uk.

The following table shows the latest available data, from the publication 'Population in Custody Monthly Tables September 2007 England and Wales' (Table 4).

Foreign national prisoners in prison establishments in Kent, 30 September 2007

Establishment	Foreign nationals	UK nationals	Nationality not recorded	Total
Blantyre House	1	117	1	119
Canterbury	259	15	2	276
Cookham Wood	0	12	0	12
East Sutton Park[1]	13	77	0	90
Elmley	173	797	15	985
Maidstone	99	378	3	480
Rochester	56	329	1	386
Standford Hill	30	368	0	398
Swaleside	165	603	1	769

[1] East Sutton Park is a women's prison.

Source:

Figures taken from monthly published statistics at:
http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/pop-in-custody-sep07.xls

Dover Immigration Removal Centre is excluded from this table because it holds only those detained under immigration powers, not those serving custodial sentences.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Reoffenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if his Department will use the re-offending rates of those released from approved premises in measuring the effectiveness of those premises. [163832]

Maria Eagle: It would not be viable or meaningful to use re-offending rates as a measure of the effectiveness of approved premises. Most offenders accommodated in approved premises are under the supervision of offender managers and subject to a range of controls and interventions. The work done in the approved premises forms one part of an integrated package of supervision. In considering re-offending rates, it would be impossible to isolate the effects of the period of residence in approved premises from the impact of other components.

There would be additional methodological difficulties in trying to gather meaningful re-offending data on offenders who have completed a period of residence in approved premises. These include the relatively small number of offenders accommodated in approved premises, the long follow-up period that would be required given the profile of the offender group, and problems in finding a matched control group with whom meaningful comparisons could be drawn.

Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department has issued on the regard to be given to time spent on remand when sentencing those convicted of more than one offence where time spent on remand has already been taken into account in relation to sentencing for a separate offence; and if he will make a statement. [163730]

Maria Eagle: Home Office Circulars 20/2005 (Criminal Justice Act 2003 Commencement Order No8, paragraphs 80 to 85) and 37/2005 (Crediting Periods of Remand in Custody: Section 240 Criminal Justice Act 2003) provide guidance to courts that preserves the principles of crediting remand time that were applied by the Prison Service prior to the commencement of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. Additional guidance is contained in Chapter 4 of Prison Service Order 6650 (Sentence Calculation) as amended by para 18.4 of Prison Service Instruction 13/2005 (Amendments to PSO 6650 Sentence Calculation) and Prison Service Instruction 07/2007 (Sentence Calculation - providing Remand Information to Courts). The guidance reflects the intention that remand time should be counted only once; and that it should be counted only where an offender is not otherwise detained.

The Home Office Circulars are available on the Home Office website and the Prison Service Order and Instructions are published on the HM Prison Service website.

Sentencing: Domestic Violence

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research has been used to formulate sentencing options in cases of domestic violence where there are *(a)* male perpetrators with female victims, *(b)* female perpetrators with male victims, *(c)* male perpetrators with male victims and *(d)* female perpetrators with female victims; what sentencing options are available in such cases; what training is provided to magistrates in each category of domestic violence; and if he will make a statement. [163733]

Mr. Hanson: There are no specific offences of domestic violence and violent offences that take place in a domestic context will be charged as general offences of violence. No specific research has been undertaken to inform sentencing of offenders who have committed domestic violence. However, the Sentencing Guidelines Council has made clear in its Definitive Guideline Overarching Principles: Domestic Violence, effective from 18 December 2006, that offences committed in a domestic context should be regarded as being no less serious than offences committed in a non-domestic context; rather that, because an offence has been committed in a domestic context, there are likely to be aggravating factors present that make it more serious. Magistrates receive general training in application of sentencing guidelines.

Sentencing: Firearms

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what percentage of people convicted of carrying an illegal firearm under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 received the mandatory sentence established by the Act in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* 2006, broken down by age group; [163963]

(2) what the average sentence of those convicted of carrying an illegal firearm under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 was in each of the last four years. [163964]

Maria Eagle: The minimum five year sentence (three years for those aged 16 or 17) came into force on 22 January 2004. The available information, relating to England and Wales for 2004 and 2005, is contained in the table as follows.

Figures for 2006 will be available in December.

Persons[1] sentenced for firearms possession offences involving mandatory custodial sentences, England and Wales

Offence	*Statutes*	*Year*	*Age group*	*Total persons sentenced*	*Persons given immediate custody*	*Of which: 5 years or over[2]*		*Average custodial sentence length (months)*
						Number	*Percentage of total sentenced*	
Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition or firearm disguised as other object.	Firearms Act 1968 sections 5(1)(a), (ab), (aba), (ac), (ad), (ae), (af) or (c) and section 5(1A)(a) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 section 287.	2004[3]	16-17	49	10	5	10.2	25.0
			18-20	122	35	13	10.7	39.5
			21 +	565	206	63	11.2	35.3
			Total	736	251	81	11.0	35.3
		2005	16-17	32	9	4	12.5	26.0
			18-20	59	34	18	30.5	45.5
			21 +	294	199	124	42.2	48.6
			Total	385	242	146	37.9	47.3

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] 3 years in the case of persons aged 16-17.
[3] Many of the persons dealt with in 2004 will have committed their offences prior to the mandatory sentence being introduced in January 2004.
Source:
RDS-NOMS, Home Office

Television: Licenses

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reasons for applying a victim surcharge on fines for a non-payment of a TV licence are. [163738]

Maria Eagle: At present, the surcharge is payable by all offenders who commit an offence on or after 1 April 2007 and whose sentence is, or includes, a fine, irrespective of the offence or offences that led to conviction. Offenders who are fined for TV licence evasion are accordingly treated in the same way as offenders who are fined for other offences. We do not think they should be treated differently.

Victims: Compensation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the purpose was of the internal audit of the operation of the victim's surcharge; whether magistrates were involved in the audit; and what conclusions have been reached. [163731]

Maria Eagle: The internal audit is being conducted as part of a 2007-08 annual audit programme. The purpose of the audit is to review the application and effectiveness of procedures applied in magistrates' courts in relation to the processing and accounting of the victim's surcharge. Magistrates have not been directly involved in the audit. Court records are being examined to establish that the surcharge has been ordered in all appropriate cases and that all judicial cancellations of the surcharge are supported by sufficient and appropriate evidence. The internal audit is still in progress and no final conclusions have been reached. It is anticipated that the results of the internal audit will be reported in December.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been collected via the victim's surcharge since inception; where the funds raised are held; what plans there are for use of such funding; and if he will make a statement. [163732]

Maria Eagle: As at the end of September some £695,323 in receipts have been collected, since the victims surcharge came into operation on 1 April 2007. Arrangements have been made in the impending winter supplementary estimates for the receipts in question to be appropriated in aid against the Ministry of Justice estimates.

Money from the surcharge is being used to help fund organisations and schemes providing a range of emotional and practical support services to victims of crime and witnesses.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of the representations he has received on the victim's surcharge since its inception were in favour of it. [163833]

Maria Eagle: Since its inception, we have received 90 pieces of correspondence about the surcharge, 76 through MPs. Of the 90, 12 pieces of correspondence were pursuant to earlier correspondence on the matter.

Of the 90, one correspondent expressed support and three expressed no view. The rest expressed some unhappiness with, or opposition to, at least one aspect of the surcharge on fines.

Violent and Sex Offender Register

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which police forces in England and Wales have *(a)* declined to deploy, *(b)* not yet begun to deploy and *(c)* not yet completed deployment of the Violent and Sex Offender Register; and how the work of the Probation Service has been affected by declinations to deploy. [163917]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

ViSOR (formerly known as the Violent Offender and Sex Offender Register) is deployed in all police forces in England and Wales.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how the ability of the police in England and Wales to access, evaluate and share information with probation services in the United Kingdom has been affected by the establishment of the Violent and Sex Offender Register. [163918]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Roll-out of ViSOR (formerly known as the Violent Offender and Sex Offender Register) to the Probation Service is in its infancy, so there is yet to be a marked effect on information sharing between police and probation services. However, in areas where the system has been piloted, the key benefits have related to having a single, confidential database of information and intelligence on persons posing a risk of harm to the public and the probation service having more timely and full access to data that would have previously been held within police systems.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the training database for the Violent and Sex Offender Register is available to all police forces in England and Wales. [163922]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The training database for ViSOR (formerly known as the Violent Offender and Sex Offender Register) is available in all police forces in England and Wales.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-Terrorism Control Orders

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what restrictions may be placed on an individual who is the subject of a control order. [162219]

Mr. McNulty: Obligations may be imposed by a control order if they are considered necessary for purposes connected with preventing or restricting involvement, by that individual, in terrorism-related activity. An illustrative, but not exhaustive, list of obligations is set out in section 1(4) to (8) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005. Specific conditions imposed under a control order are tailored to the individual concerned and must be necessary and proportionate in each case.

Asylum: Homelessness

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of asylum seekers living on the streets; and if she will restore the provision of section 95 support to refused asylum seekers. [162775]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The Government do not keep figures of the number of asylum seekers living on the streets in the UK. However, destitute asylum seekers may apply to the Border and Immigration Agency for support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. Where support is provided under section 95 it continues throughout the duration of an asylum claim provided the person remains eligible.

Where an asylum claim is unsuccessful, section 95 support is discontinued for single people and childless couples. However, it continues for those unsuccessful asylum seeking families with a child, until the child reaches the age of 18 (provided the youngest child was under 18 at the time of final determination of the asylum claim).

There is no reason why any asylum seeker should be living on the streets, as they may apply for support if they are destitute. Those whose application has failed who are temporarily unable to leave the UK may be eligible for support under section 4 of the 1999 Act. Otherwise they are expected to return home.

Border and Immigration Agency

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people the Border and Immigration Agency employs in *(a)* Gloucestershire, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* Wales to ensure that foreign workers are employed legally. [162611]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The Border and Immigration Agency Wales and South West Region employs a total of approximately 350 staff in six offices in Cardiff, Swansea, Bristol, Poole, Plymouth and Mostyn (North Wales). In addition there are 21 police officers seconded to assist with enforcement operations. Enforcement officers carried out 286 illegal working operations in the region between April-October 2007, 221 of which were successful in terms of locating illegal foreign workers. In addition there are a total of 11 managed migration staff attached to the region who carry out work in relation to the points-based system for grading bona-fide employers. Further to this both intelligence and operational staff carry out visits to employers that are both educational and operational in that they instruct employers with regard to their obligations under the 1996 Immigration Act and obtain details of staff in order to carry out checks on their immigration status.

British Nationality: English Language

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the pass rate in the English language tests for those seeking UK citizenship has been in each year since the inception of the tests. [162682]

Mr. Byrne: The knowledge of life (KOL) test was introduced in November 2005 for citizenship applicants. The pass rates for the tests are as follows:

The pass rate for 2005 (October to December) was 71 per cent.

The pass rate for 2006 was 67.6 per cent.

The pass rate for 2007 (January to October) was 67.4 per cent.

The information is based on the information provided by applicants when taking their test. In April 2007 the Home Office extended the knowledge of life test to those applying for settlement in the UK.

Channel Tunnel Rail Link: Security

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements the Government has made to maintain and improve immigration and security operations on the Channel Tunnel rail link in preparation for Ebbsfleet International Station opening; and if she will make a statement. [163137]

Mr. Byrne: Following agreements signed with the French Government in 2000 and the Belgian Government in 2004, UK immigration controls on Eurostar passengers from Paris, Lille, Calais Frethun and Brussels are now undertaken at those stations prior to the train departing for the UK. As a result of the introduction of these juxtaposed controls immigration officers are now able to stop individuals with false, stolen or inadequate documents or those who do not have permission to enter the UK before they can board trains to any of the Eurostar stations in Britain; this includes the new stations of St. Pancras and Ebbsfleet. The opening of these new stations does not reduce the effectiveness of juxtaposed controls. We are also able to deploy immigration officers to any UK Eurostar station to mount inbound controls, either to test the risk on certain services or, if necessary, as an emergency response.

The Channel Tunnel (Security) Order 1994 requires the operators of Channel Tunnel businesses to have in place security measures to protect the travelling public and the Tunnel. Department for Transport officials have worked closely with Eurostar on security in preparation for the new station openings. Site visits have taken place to inspect security arrangements and security equipment has been upgraded. Government and industry have well rehearsed procedures for preparing for and dealing with immigration and security threats to the Channel Tunnel rail link.

Kent police have been working with the border agencies, industry and other stakeholders over the past few years to prepare for the opening of the station. As a result, policing plans are now in place to cover both the operational requirements for the station and the rail links.

Chinese Community: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were detained as alleged illegal migrants as a result of the Border and Immigration Agency raid in Chinatown on 11 October; how many of those people were released, as legal workers; what the longest period was a detainee was held; how many *(a)* remain in detention, *(b)* await removal and *(c)* have been removed; which countries and regions the people detained were from, broken down by country or region; and if she will make a statement. [162700]

Mr. Byrne: 49 subjects were initially detained on suspicion of being immigration offenders, comprising 36 Chinese, 11 Malaysian, one Vietnamese and one Hong Kong. Four were released on the same day as they were found to be working legally and 10 Malaysian nationals have been removed. The remaining subjects are in detention awaiting removal.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Border and Immigration Agency staff and *(b)* police officers were involved in the Chinatown raid on 11 October; and if she will make a statement. [162701]

Mr. Byrne: 58 Border and Immigration Agency staff and approximately 50 police officers attended the operation.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what documents restaurateurs involved in the raids by the Border and Immigration Agency on 11 October were asked to sign; and if she will make a statement. [162702]

Mr. Byrne: Restaurateurs were asked to sign the 'notification of potential liability' section in the section 8 Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 Illegal Working Visit Record Book.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the meeting attended by Border and Immigration Agency officials in Chinatown on 18 October. [162703]

Mr. Byrne: Border and Immigration Agency staff attended an open meeting at the Chinese Community Centre on 18 October to listen to the concerns of the community and explain the process and objectives of the operation. As a result of this meeting a series of workshops with local employers will be held.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the protest in London's Chinatown which involved closure of several restaurants on 18 October; and if she will make a statement. [162704]

Mr. Byrne: It was recognised that the operation could result in some community tension as the Border and Immigration Agency had not conducted visits in Chinatown for some time. The London and south-east regional community cohesion team had already engaged with the London Chinese community centre

on more general agency matters, and this team revisited the community after the operation to address its concerns. We have also liaised with the Metropolitan police Chinatown community team and agreed a community impact plan.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at what stage those detained on 11 October during the raid in London's Chinatown by the Border and Immigration Agency were afforded access to legal advice; and if she will make a statement. [162705]

Mr. Byrne: Those detained at police stations had access to the duty solicitor, if desired, following the booking-in process. It is part of police process to inform prisoners of their right to legal advice. Those held in Border and Immigration Agency accommodation had access to public telephones to contact a representative of their choice.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will meet the London Chinatown Chinese Association to discuss immigration issues. [162706]

Mr. Byrne: Officials are already in contact with the London Chinatown Chinese Association and we are working with them to address a range of immigration issues including provision of workshops for local employers on the legal requirements surrounding the employment of migrant workers.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how long those detained following the raids in London's Chinatown on 11 October were held before they were given *(a)* food and *(b)* drink; and if she will make a statement. [162707]

Mr. Byrne: Prisoners at police stations were held in accordance with PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence Act) Codes of Practice and were offered refreshments in line with this act. Detainees in Border and Immigration Agency accommodation were provided with food and drinks within three hours of their arrival.

Crime Prevention: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to issue her next policy document on the reduction of violent crime. [162167]

Mr. Coaker: We are currently working on the development of a new policy document on tackling violence, which we expect to issue within the next three months.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of freedom of information requests granted by her Department in 2006 made a full disclosure of the information or documents requested within the statutory 20 working days. [163040]

Mr. Byrne: In 2006 there were 2,868 requests for information held. The Department held information in 1,785 cases. Responses to 796 of these requests resulted in information being disclosed in full and 79 per cent. of these were responded to within the statutory 20 working days. Further information on the Department's performance can be found in the Ministry of Justice's second annual report on the operation of the FOI Act in central Government 2006. This can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/foi-annual-report-central-gov-2006.pdf

A copy is also available in the Library.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Welsh speakers her Department employs. [162887]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office does not collect information about the number of Welsh speakers within the Department.

Deportation: Sudan

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment the Government has made of the safety for refugees and asylum seekers of returning them to Sudan. [162171]

Mr. Byrne: We are aware of recent allegations by the Aegis Trust regarding the treatment of failed asylum seekers who have returned to Sudan. We are taking the allegations very seriously and we are investigating them thoroughly.

On 4 October, the House of Lords heard an appeal brought by the Home Office on whether it is reasonable to return unsuccessful asylum seekers to Khartoum, where the Court of Appeal has found no risk of persecution. The judgment is expected shortly.

There are no enforced returns of failed asylum seekers currently planned before the House of Lords judgment is expected.

Entry Clearances

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review the rules on issuing travel documents to UK residents who are nationals of states without functioning agencies dealing with the issuance of passports or travel documents in the state itself or in its overseas representations. [162045]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency does not consider it necessary to review the rules on issuing travel documents to UK residents who are nationals of states without functioning agencies dealing with the issuance of passports or travel documents in the state itself or in its overseas representations.

Entry Clearances: Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of dependents accompanying A8 nationals working in the UK. [162670]

Mr. Byrne: Information concerning the actual number of dependants accompanying A8 nationals is published quarterly in The Accession Monitoring Report.

This report currently gives data from one May 2004 to 30 June 2007. The information you require is published in table five of the report, at the following link:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report

I will arrange for a copy of the report to be deposited in the House Libraries.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the likely change in the number of non-EU workers given leave to enter the UK as a result of the introduction of *(a)* the points-based system and *(b)* the measures contained in Her Majesty's Gracious Speech; and over what timescale she expects such changes to take place. [162671]

Mr. Byrne: We are introducing the points-based system during 2008 and 2009 so that only those the UK needs can come to work or study. When we set the 'pass mark' we will take advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee on where in the economy migration can sensibly fill skills gaps, and the Migration Impacts Forum on the wider impacts of migration.

Entry Clearances: Somalia

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will consider revising the rules on issuing travel documents to Somali nationals who are resident in the UK as dependants of EEA nationals. [162044]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency does not consider it necessary to revise the rules on issuing travel documents to Somali nationals who are resident in the UK as dependents of EEA nationals.

Freedom of Information

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many freedom of information requests her Department and its agencies received in the latest year for which figures are available; [163038]

(2) how many requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 her Department turned down in the last year; and for what reasons. [163039]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested was published in the Ministry of Justice's second annual report on the operation of the FOI Act in central Government 2006. This can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/foi-annual-report-central-gov-2006.pdf

A copy is also available in the Library.

Immigration Controls

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which elements of the Government's points-based immigration system require further primary legislation; and if she will make a statement. [163041]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* None. We are satisfied that existing primary legislation (including the UK Borders Act 2007) gives us all the powers we need to operate the PBS.

Immigration Controls: Asia

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the impact on *(a)* Chinese and *(b)* South Asia migrants of the new points-based system for migration, with particular reference to the need to recruit skilled and experienced staff. [162870]

Mr. Byrne: No estimate has been made of the impact of the Points-Based System (PBS) on Chinese and South Asia Migrants. One of the key objectives of the Points-Based System is the better identifying and attracting of migrants that are of benefit to the United Kingdom, wherever they come from. Equality impact assessments will ensure there is no bias in the system. UKvisas are working through their posts in the region to communicate messages on PBS in a clear and timely fashion to ensure we do continue to attract migrants with the skills the UK needs.

Immigration Officers: Heathrow Airport

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department and the Border and Immigration Agency have made about the manpower requirements for the immigration service at Heathrow airport on the opening of Terminal 5; what plans her Department has to meet those requirements; and if she will make a statement. [163774]

Mr. Byrne: Staff will be allocated across the five terminals at Heathrow according to business need and a timed plan is being drawn up in line with BAA information on planned airline relocations. This will ensure that BIA staffing resources are deployed appropriately to meet passenger traffic levels across Heathrow following the opening of Terminal 5.

Immigration: Somalia

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Border and Immigration Agency about the application process which Somali nationals resident in the UK are required to undergo to obtain travel documents. [163089]

Mr. Byrne: The Secretary of State has had no discussions with the Border and Immigration Agency about the application process which Somali nationals resident in the UK are required to undergo to obtain travel documents. Somali nationals are subject to the same application process as the nationals of any country which does not issue its citizens with passports in the UK.

Immobilisations of Vehicles

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what representations she has received, and from whom, on the operation of wheel clampers operating on car parks and private land; and if she will bring forward legislation in this regard; [163340]

(2) if she will take steps to regulate the size of the signs and warnings necessary before wheel clampers operating on car parks and private land can immobilise motor vehicles. [163341]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office receives frequent correspondence on issues relating to vehicle immobilisation on private land.

The Home Office is considering with relevant stakeholders reviewing policy on the regulation of vehicle immobilisers. Such a review could include the issue of signage. This work is, however, at an early stage and no decision has been made. No commitment can be made to any timescales at present.

The Department for Transport plans to issue guidance to local authorities on parking policy and enforcement in the new year and this will include guidance relating to vehicle immobilisation on public land.

Information: Airports

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what factors were taken into account in determining the format of the notices posted in airports for incoming passengers at the UK's borders. [163686]

Mr. Byrne: As part of a communication campaign during Summer 2007 posters were placed across those ports with the highest passenger footfalls to help ensure the travelling public was aware that the UK border was being strengthened through tougher checks and that they should prepare for a longer wait to have their travel documents checked by immigration officers. The posters were displayed at various sites including passport control, arrivals and departures with a simple message of 'tougher checks can take longer'.

Intelligence Services: Complaints

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures exist for people to make complaints to the Investigatory Powers Tribunal about alleged misconduct by the intelligence services when they have not been victims of that misconduct. [162814]

Mr. McNulty: Section 65 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 provides that a person who is aggrieved by conduct believed to have taken place in relation to him, or her, or their property by or on behalf of the intelligence agencies may complain to the independent Investigatory Powers Tribunal and have that complaint determined. It is for the Tribunal to decide on any relationship between alleged conduct and complainant.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter of 1 October 2007 from the hon. Member for Walsall, North regarding a constituent, ref: M19658/7. [162401]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier) wrote to my hon. Friend on 7 November 2007.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter of 30 July from the hon. Member for Beaconsfield. [163941]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 16 August 2007.

MI5

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many files in the PF MI5 series there were; how many of these have been *(a)* declassified, *(b)* destroyed and *(c)* designated as remaining classified; what criteria were used to designate such files as falling into each category; how many of the PF MI5 series files that remain classified relate to (i) suspected and (ii) indicted war criminals; if he will declassify such files to enable an assessment by the Metropolitan War Crimes Unit to be made with a view to grounds for prosecutions; and if she will make a statement. [162757]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is that the Security Service held approximately 272,000 personal files in January 2005—this figure is an accumulative total covering the history of the Service and includes those files on individuals who have been subject to investigation, personnel files on members of staff and other files, for example, those who have been of assistance to the Service, but does not include those files that have been destroyed. Since 1997, the Service has destroyed approximately 114,000 personal files—these were destroyed in accordance with agreed procedures and do not include files of historic interest. As at September 2007, the Service had declassified and released to The National Archive over 2,700 volumes of personal files.

The Security Service will provide full assistance, including disclosure of information, in response to a police request arising from an investigation of suspected war crimes.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign nationals released from prisons have *(a)* been handed over to authorities in their country of origin, *(b)* been released into the custody of the Immigration and Border Agency, *(c)* been deported and *(d)* been released and allowed to remain in the United Kingdom (i) in each of the last five years and (ii) in 2007 up to the most recent time for which data are available; [161938]

(2) what crimes were committed by foreign prisoners who have *(a)* been handed over to authorities in their country of origin, *(b)* been released into the custody of the Immigration and Border Agency, *(c)* been deported and *(d)* been released and allowed to remain in the United Kingdom in (i) each of the last five years and (ii) 2007 to date. [161939]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost. The Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency has written regularly to the Home Affairs Committee over the past 18 months providing the most robust and accurate data relating to foreign national prisoners. Copies of this correspondence are available in the Library of the House.

Police: Arbitration

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to accept as binding all decisions of the independent Police Arbitration Tribunal; and if she will make a statement. [162299]

Mr. McNulty: As I explained in my reply to the hon. Gentleman's question on 4 October 2007, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary will consider very carefully the recommendations that result from the Police Arbitration Tribunal before making her decision on the 2007 police officer pay award.

Police: Incentives

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria are applied in determining bonus payments for senior police officers. [163726]

Mr. McNulty: The criteria for determining bonus payments for senior police officers are determined by the Police Negotiating Board comprising representatives of the Secretaries of State, police authorities, chief police officers and the police staff associations. The criteria for determining bonus payments have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are also available on the Police Negotiating Board Circular 2005/3 which can be viewed at the Office of Manpower Economies' website at:

http://www.ome.uk.com/downloads/05-3percent20chiefpercent20officerspercent20bonuspercent20nationalpercent20guidance.doc

Police: Information and Communications Technology

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police forces in England and Wales have referred cases to the National Technical Assistance Centre (NTAC) involving passwords in each year since NTAC's inception; how many cases in each year were resolved within three months; and what the average time frame was for a case to be resolved in each year; [162097]

(2) how many police forces in England and Wales have referred cases involving encryption to the National Technical Assistance Centre (NTAC) in each year since NTAC's inception; how many such cases were resolved within three months; and what the average time frame for such cases being resolved was in 2006-07. [162130]

David Hanson *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The number of police forces in England and Wales that have referred cases to the National Technical Assistance Centre (NTAC) for assistance to process lawfully obtained protected electronic information has been:

	Number
2001	10
2002	20
2003	22
2004	23
2005	18
2006	21
2007 (to date)	18

As my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Margaret Beckett) informed the House in her written ministerial statement on 31 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 11WS:

> "The National Technical Assistance Centre (NTAC) was formally transferred from the Home Office to Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) in April 2006. As the Minister responsible for GCHQ, I now have ministerial oversight of its activities."

It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on intelligence matters including the work of the intelligence agencies.

Prisoners: Deportation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were *(a)* released into the community, *(b)* detained on the Prison Estate pending deportation proceedings, *(c)* transferred into Home Office detention and *(d)* deported or removed in each year since 1997. [163347]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency has written regularly to the Home Affairs Committee over the past 18 months providing the most robust and accurate data relating to foreign national prisoners. Copies of this correspondence are available from the Library of the House.

Prisoners: Nationality

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to ascertain the *(a)* nationality, *(b)* residential status and *(c)* right to remain in the United Kingdom of the prisoners held in England and Wales whose nationality is classified as unknown. [163344]

Mr. Byrne: All cases that are referred to the Border and Immigration Agency by the Prison Service are given full and careful consideration before any action is taken. This consideration will take into account all factors pertinent to the circumstances of the individual. Border and Immigration Agency staff attend prisons in order to interview foreign national prisoners and ascertain their nationality and immigration status where required.

Stop and Search

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* training and *(b)* written guidance is provided to police officers for the use of stop and search powers under (i) section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and (ii) section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000. [163716]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* Training relating to stop and search procedures under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 is provided to all police forces through the police learning and development programme.

In 2002-03, the Central Police Training and Development Authority (later subsumed into the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA)), developed a training package for all police forces on stop and search powers in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Code of Practice, itself updated in 2003. NPIA has continued to upgrade the programme and supporting materials in light of lessons in learning.

Among the areas covered in the training package are the powers to stop and search under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

Initial training in stop and search procedures is provided by all police forces as part of the PCSO training programme and the initial police learning and development programme. The training, delivered by police forces at a local level, is aimed primarily at new police sergeant and inspector ranks in the operational, performance and planning sections of the national core leadership development programme. The current legislation relating to stop and search powers features prominently within this training programme.

Since 2006, and following much of the learning from Sir William Macpherson's Inquiry into the death of Stephen Lawrence, an electronic learning module on section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 has been made available to all police personnel. NPIA and the Association of Chief Police Officers has also produced 'Practice Advice on Stop and Search', which incorporates advice on stop and search procedures, as well as a bespoke piece of guidance issued this year on Section 44 anti-terrorism stops and searches.

Travel Requirements

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which foreign governments the Government has had recent discussions on the assurance and validity of travel documents; and if she will make a statement. [163138]

Mr. Byrne: Officials from the Border and Immigration Agency regularly engage in dialogue with foreign government representatives when there is a need to discuss travel documentation. Visits have been made this year to several embassies and high commissions in the UK, including those of Albania, Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Estonia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Iran, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago and Turkey. Discussions have also been held with the Palestine General Delegate's Office in London.

Border and Immigration Agency Officials have also been involved this year in discussions on travel documentation in several countries, including China, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Jamaica, Nigeria and Sri Lanka.

Video Games: Crimes of Violence

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* violent attacks and *(b)* murders that were judged to be linked in some way to violent video games occurred in the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [164211]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not collect information on how many violent attacks and murders are judged to be linked to violent video games.

WALES

Departmental Consultations

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many responses his Department received to its consultation on the Government's draft legislative programme; and if he will publish them. [162897]

Mr. Hain: The Leader of the House of Commons issued a written ministerial statement today, "The Government's Draft Legislative Programme—Taking a wider view" as a summary of the Government's first steps in taking the wider view after the publication of the Draft Legislative Programme.

My Department received 18 responses about the Draft Legislative Programme from various organisations in Wales.

Legislation

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales of the legislation introduced by his Department since its establishment, which provisions have not been brought into force. [162894]

Mr. Hain: All of the Acts of Parliament for which the Wales Office is the responsible Department have been brought into force, subject to the following exceptions.

Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2005

Section 20 and paragraph 15 (5) of Schedule 1 have not been brought into force. The power to commence those provisions rests with the Welsh Ministers. The other substantive provisions of the Act came into force in October 2005, but some amendments and repeals were made by the Government of Wales Act 2006 with effect from May 2007.

Government of Wales Act 2006

Sections 107, 108 and 110 to 115 ("the Assembly Act provisions") have not yet come into force. The Welsh Ministers will have the power to commence those provisions in accordance with section 105 if the majority of voters in a referendum held throughout Wales vote in favour of them coming into force. The rest of the Act came into force between July 2006 and June 2007.

National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006

This Act consolidated the existing law and came into force on 1 March 2007. However, where the Act re-enacts provisions in certain legislation which has not yet come into force, the re-enactment of those provisions will not take effect until the original provisions come into force.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for how many days Lord Malloch-Brown has been resident in an Admiralty House flat. [161924]

Meg Munn: My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, has had residence since 1 August 2007.

Admiralty House: Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much was spent in the ministerial flats in Admiralty House on *(a)* wine and entertaining, *(b)* food, *(c)* flowers and plants and *(d)* telephone bills in the last period for which figures are available; [162004]

(2) how much his Department has paid to the Cabinet Office for Lord Malloch-Brown's residence in Admiralty House *(a)* in total and *(b)* to cover the cost of (i) rent, (ii) security, (iii) utilities, (iv) facilities management and (v) general maintenance. [162138]

Meg Munn: Details of payments made in 2007-08 will be available when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament.

Burma: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which relevant bodies are charged with elaborating further restrictive measures against Burma, including a ban on new investments, as set out in the 15 October statement by EU Foreign Ministers. [163893]

David Miliband *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* EU member states will elaborate further restrictive measures against Burma in the relevant council working parties, on the basis of a report by EU heads of missions in Rangoon requested by the presidency.

Cyprus: Currencies

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what currency will circulate in the Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus when Cyprus joins the euro in July 2008; and if he will make a statement. [163113]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have been asked to reply.

In appendix O to the Treaty establishing the Republic of Cyprus the UK Government agreed that "the currency of the Republic will be legal tender in the Sovereign Base Areas". Since 1960 the Sovereign Base Areas, including a large number of Cypriot citizens as well as the British military personnel who reside there, have used the Cyprus pound. The Republic of Cyprus will replace the Cyprus pound with the euro from 1 January 2008. At the same time the Sovereign Base Areas will also adopt the euro as legal tender. The use of a currency in the Sovereign Base Areas other than that circulating in the Republic of Cyprus would be impractical, and would run counter to our 1960 commitments.

Departmental NDPBs

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; who the chairman is of each; and to what salary, including bonuses and expenses, each chairman is entitled. [163604]

Meg Munn: The following are the budgets and remit of each of the non-departmental public bodies (NDPB) sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO); who the chairman is of each; and to what salary, including bonuses and expenses, each chairman is entitled.

The Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission

The Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission is the NDPB responsible for administering the Marshall Scholarship Scheme. The FCO funds this scheme almost entirely and is contributing £2.2 million this financial year.

Marshall Scholarships finance young Americans of high ability to study for a degree in the UK. Scholars are selected each year to study either at graduate or occasionally undergraduate level at an UK institution in any field of study. Each scholarship is held for two years. As future leaders, with a lasting understanding of British society, Marshall Scholars strengthen the enduring relationship between the British and American peoples, their Governments and their institutions. The current chairman is Dr. Frances Dow. The role of chairman is unpaid, but she is entitled to claim travel expenses only.

The Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine (GHACPW)

The Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine (GHACPW) has no budget and its operating costs are met by Government Hospitality, Protocol Directorate. The remit of the Committee, as defined in its Terms of Reference, is

"to advise the Minister responsible for Government Hospitality on the maintenance of an appropriate standard of wine for use at Government functions. This entails advice, after tasting, on the purchase of wine, the exchange of wine if necessary, and the stocking of the Government Hospitality Cellar at Lancaster House."

The GHACPW chairman is Sir David Wright GCMG LVO. The role of chairman is unpaid, but he is entitled to claim travel expenses to attend each of the four meetings per year.

BBC World Service (BBCWS)

The FCO will provide grant in aid of £239.5 million to the BBCWS in financial year 2007-08. BBCWS' remit is to provide independent news and information to audiences around the world. Sir Michael Lyon is chairman of the BBC Trust. His salary, which is not funded by the FCO, is £140,000 per annum. Sir Michael was appointed on 1 May 2007 so no expenses were incurred last financial year. Out-of-pocket expenses necessarily incurred while on BBCWS business are reimbursed. Bonuses are not paid.

Wilton Park Advisory Council (WPAC)

WPAC has no budget. WPAC's main responsibilities are to ensure that Wilton Park activities meet the highest academic standards and that it maintains its reputation as a centre of excellence. It also gives advice concerning the selection of conference themes, speakers and participants. The current chairman of WPAC is Dr. Farhan Nizami (from the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies). The role of chairman is unpaid, but he is entitled to claim travel expenses for attendance at the bi-annual meetings.

The British Council

In 2007-08 the British Council's grant in aid budget from the FCO was £192,803,000. The purpose of the British Council is to build mutually beneficial relationships between people in the UK and other countries and to increase appreciation of the UK's creative ideas and achievements. The chairman of the British Council is my noble Friend the right hon. Lord Kinnock. The role of chairman is unpaid, but he is entitled to claim out-of-pocket expenses necessarily incurred while on British Council business.

The Great Britain China Centre (GBCC)

The Great Britain China Centre (GBCC) receives a grant in aid of £300,000 from the FCO, which is drawn down quarterly. The remit of the GBCC is to promote closer economic, professional, cultural, and academic relations between Britain and China; and to encourage mutual knowledge and understanding. The chairman of the GBCC is Mr. Peter Batey, OBE. The role of chairman is unpaid, but he is entitled to claim travel expenses only.

The Foreign Compensation Commission (FCC)

The Foreign Compensation Commission (FCC) is an independent tribunal formed by an Act of Parliament in the 1960s. The FCC has a budget of £52,000 per annum. However, last year this budget was underspent by £12,000, and this year it is expected to be underspent by £15,000. In both cases the money has been returned to central FCO funds before the mid point of the year. The FCC remit is to administer and pay out compensation to UK citizens who have had property expropriated by a foreign state. It takes action following an FCO-negotiated settlement with an expropriating state. In such instances, the Government normally agrees a lump sum settlement with the relevant state. It is the responsibility of the FCC to fairly distribute this lump sum between the various UK claimants, who could number in the thousands. The chairman of the FCC is Dr. John Barker. Dr. Barker works part time a few days a month. His fees are £465 per day. His total fees for the year are budgeted at £25,000.

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) is a NDPB set up by the FCO in 1992. The WFD is funded primarily by an annual grant-in-aid from the FCO (£4.1 million for financial year 2006-07); it seeks further financial support from the private sector and other funding organisations. Its aim is to help establish and strengthen pluralist democratic institutions, particularly political parties, in countries where they are absent, of recent foundation, or in need of further encouragement and development. My hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, West (Mr. Beiley) has been chairman of the WFD since August 2005. The role of chairman is unpaid, but he is entitled to claim travel and subsistence expenses incurred.

The Diplomatic Service Appeal Board (DSAB)

The Diplomatic Service Appeal Board (DSAB) is an advisory NDPB. The DSAB has no operating budget. The DSAB's main purpose is to advise my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary whether premature retirement or termination of an appointment on grounds of failed probation, or dismissal on any grounds is fair. The board's function is to satisfy itself that management has acted responsibly and fairly. The chair is Philippa Drew. The role of chairman is unpaid. All members get a daily fee of £360, plus travel and subsistence costs, for work undertaken on behalf of the board. The board meets infrequently, at most once or twice a year.

The British Association for Central and Eastern Europe (BACEE)

The British Association for Central and Eastern Europe (BACEE). The budget from the FCO is £100,000 for this financial year, however this will be the last year the BACEE will receive Government funding. BACEE exists to promote a closer understanding between the British people and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and to support them in developing democratic systems and civil society. Their main activity is organising seminars and study visits. These have covered parliamentary elections, the judicial system, the media, anti-corruption, banking, local government, and penal reform. The chairman is my noble Friend the right hon. Lord Radice. The role of chairman is unpaid, but he is entitled to claim travel expenses only, this has never been done.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last five years. [163702]

Meg Munn: The figures relating to numbers of staff disciplined and dismissed specifically as a result of a poor sick record in the last five years are available only at disproportionate cost.

Diego Garcia: Ilois

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates UK Government *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers held discussions with the US Administration on new arrangements for Chagos Islanders to work on two-year contracts on Diego Garcia; and when these new arrangements came into effect. [164814]

Meg Munn: There are no new arrangements. Chagossians have been able to apply for jobs on the US facility on Diego Garcia—some have worked there over the past decades, three Chagossians were employed there last year.

Officials annually remind the government of the United States of its obligation under the 1966 Exchange of Notes that it and its contractors agreed to make use of workers from Mauritius and Seychelles to the maximum extent practicable, consistent with United States policies,

requirements and schedules. This was last reviewed during the 2007 US/UK political military talks held in Washington on 12 and 13 September. Ministers have not raised this issue recently with the US administration.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Chagos Island contract community members are eligible to apply for work on Diego Garcia; and what regulations will apply to such workers. [164816]

Meg Munn: Any Chagossian can apply for work on Diego Garcia advertised by the US contractor, DG21.

Under our 1966 Exchange of Notes with the government of the United States, the United States government and contractors agreed to make use of workers from Mauritius to the maximum extent practicable, consistent with United States policies, requirements and schedules.

In November 2007, DG21's programme director visited Mauritius and had meetings with Chagossian leaders in which he outlined further job opportunities for Chagossians on Diego Garcia. He made clear that recruitment was on merit.

EU Treaties: Reform

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on EU plans to run publicity and PR campaigns in the UK explaining the contents of the Treaty of Lisbon; and what the Government's position is on such plans. [161923]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The European Commission has no plans to run publicity and public relations campaigns in the UK explaining the contents of the treaty of Lisbon.

European General Affairs and External Relations Council: Voting

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many votes took place at the European General Affairs and External Relations Council in each of the last 12 months; how many times the British Government *(a)* applied a veto, *(b)* voted negatively and *(c)* abstained in such votes in each month; and if he will make a statement. [162868]

David Miliband: The latest twelve month period for which definitive figures are available from the Council Secretariat runs to May 2007. During that period the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council voted to adopt 86 acts. The breakdown by month is as follows.

2006

June—10
July/August—7
September—7
October—9
November—7
December—9

2007

January—7
February—9
March—6
April—10
May—5

The UK voted against on only one occasion (a Council Regulation imposing an anti-dumping duty on imports of ironing boards originating in the People's Republic of China and Ukraine) in April 2007. The UK did not veto or abstain on any votes.

European Union: Offices

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the projected share of the costs to the UK is of the expansion of EU office space in Brussels. [161925]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* The European Commission is expanding office space in response to the increase in staff required due to the accession of 10 new member states in 2004 and Romania and Bulgaria in 2007.

The EU budget, to which all member states contribute, bears the cost of purchasing and renting EU office buildings. This is one of the main components of the EU's administrative expenditure. The UK's share of financing of the 2007 EU budget, after taking into account of the UK abatement, is 12.5 per cent. a smaller share than Germany, France or Italy.

The European Commission has reformed the tendering process to increase transparency. The process is still ongoing and consequently the total price of expansion of EU office space in Brussels is not yet known. The Government welcome the increased transparency and will continue to expect and encourage all EU institutions to provide value for money.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to support the request of the French government for stronger sanctions against Iran; and whether any proposed sanction will include the relevant activities of the Total Oil Company. [163638]

Dr. Howells: The Government are fully committed to stronger measures against Iran, to persuade the Iranian government to change its nuclear policy. We are working closely at all levels with the French government, who share our views on the need to increase the pressure on Iran. EU Foreign Ministers agreed at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) on 15 October that the EU would consider what further measures it should take, and we will be pressing for a decision to implement appropriate further measures at the December GAERC, following discussion in the relevant EU working groups. The Government, together with our E3+3 partners (China, France, Germany, Russia and the US), are committed to putting a new sanctions resolution to a vote at the UN unless reports this month from Dr. Solana and Dr. El Baradei both show a positive outcome. Sanctions adopted at the UN or the EU will apply to the companies of all member states.

Iraq: Departmental Coordination

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the adequacy of cooperation between Government departments involved in offering assistance to Iraqi staff who are working for, and who have worked for, the Government; and if he will make a statement. [163860]

David Miliband *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* There has been good co-operation across Whitehall. I have chaired several meetings on the issue. Officials have met regularly under the chairmanship of the Cabinet Office.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been paid to private military and security companies in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan to protect British Government personnel and infrastructure in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [162881]

David Miliband: The information requested by the hon. Member is as follows:

	£
Iraq	
2003/04	21,800,000
2004/05	52,200,000
2005/06	47,800,000
2006/07	30,400,000
2007/08	27,400,000
Afghanistan	
2004	4,850,000
2005	5,430,000
2006	16,430,000
2007	19,780,000

The information above covers contracts put in place by the Government with private security companies, and reflects in the main the contract values concerned and not the actual spend. These include Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development and other Government contracts.

Iraq: Resettlement

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Iraqi nationals meet the eligibility criteria for ex gratia assistance and either work or have worked in Iraq as *(a)* direct employees of the UK armed forces or the Ministry of Defence, *(b)* on letters of appointment from the British embassy in Baghdad or the British embassy offices in Basra and the Kurdistan Region and *(c)* as direct employees of the Department for International Development or the British Council. [163871]

David Miliband *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* There are about 280 Iraqi nationals working for the Government eligible for ex-gratia assistance. We estimate between four and five hundred former employees will meet the criteria.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what procedures have been put in place to ensure that those Iraqi contracted staff who meet the criteria for ex gratia assistance are fully informed about the assistance available to them. [163885]

David Miliband *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* We have held meetings with serving locally engaged Iraqi staff to inform them of my written ministerial statements of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-28WS and 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 30-33WS and to hear their views. Details have also been published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence websites. We will continue to work to ensure that former staff who meet the eligibility criteria have the best possible chance of hearing about the scheme.

Irian Jaya: Torture

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what reports he has received on allegations of torture in West Papuan prisons; [163057]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Indonesian Government on self-determination for West Papua; and if he will make a statement; [163058]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Free West Papua Campaign; and if he will make a statement. [163059]

Meg Munn: We are aware of allegations of ill treatment in prisons. Our embassy in Jakarta regularly discusses human rights issues, including Papua, with the Indonesian Government. Manfred Novak, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture is currently visiting Indonesia and we will carefully consider the resulting findings and recommendations.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed Papua with the Indonesian Government. However, I met the Governor of Papua, Barnabus Suebo, when he visited London on 25 October. We discussed the situation in Papua, including human rights and the implementation of the Special Autonomy Law.

We are in contact with the Free West Papua Campaign and encourage dialogue between them and the Government of Indonesia. Officials at our embassy in Jakarta visit Papua regularly and meet local officials, academics, journalists and non-governmental organisations. We believe that the best way to resolve the issues in Papua is through promoting peaceful dialogue between Papuan groups and the Indonesian Government.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* the Prime Minister have had with Mr Blair since his appointment as the Quartet's Middle East Envoy; on what dates these discussions took place; and if he will make a statement. [162877]

David Miliband: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and I are in contact with the right hon. Tony Blair, the Quartet Representative, and discuss a wide range of issues concerning the Middle East.

Slovenia: EU Presidency

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Slovenian counterpart on Slovenia's EU presidency in the first half of 2008; and if he will make a statement. [162515]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers have regular discussions with their Slovenian counterparts and I recently visited Ljubljana where I met with the Slovenian Minister for Europe, Janez Lenarcic. The UK looks forward to working with the Slovenian presidency in 2008 to help deliver the issues that matter to Europe's citizens: growth and jobs, tackling climate change and fighting terrorism.

Uzbekistan: Human Rights

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress in reducing the use of torture by official agencies in Uzbekistan since the report on that country by the UN special rapporteur on torture in 2002. [163905]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Uzbekistan remains the only country in Central Asia to have invited and hosted the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture. Following his visit in 2002, the then UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Theo van Boven, made 22 key recommendations in his report. The Uzbek authorities say they have fulfilled these. The current UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Manfred Nowak, has been unable to visit Uzbekistan to study implementation. He told the UN Human Rights Council in 2006 that

> "the very fact that torture is still practised systematically (in Uzbekistan) is the best proof that the recommendations have not been implemented".

The Uzbek authorities point to national legislation that prohibits "illegal" torture. Two Interior Ministry officials were convicted of torture in April 2007, but the numbers of allegations far outweigh the cases investigated and brought to trial.

The criminal justice system still convicts on the basis of confessions, with scant corroborating evidence, and thus encourages coercion. Anecdotal evidence suggests that judges continue to overlook allegations of torture made during trials. This suggests a lack of substantial progress to reduce the practice of torture. We continue to receive regular allegations of torture from victims, their relatives and human rights defenders. We have concluded, therefore, that torture and other forms of ill treatment are routine, particularly in the early stages of custody. We welcome the reforms to the criminal justice system that the Uzbek Government will introduce from 1 January 2008 to abolish the death penalty and implement a form of *habeas corpus*. The latter step is particularly key to combating torture.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Uzbekistan Government on its observance of human rights and the use of torture; and if he will make a statement. [163906]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We work bilaterally, as well as with the EU and international organisations such as the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, to ensure improved respect for human rights in Uzbekistan. The issue of torture continues to form part of our dialogue on human rights with the Uzbek authorities. We regularly raise allegations of human rights abuses. We have made repeated representations and statements on the detention, harassment and trials of human rights defenders and opposition figures in Uzbekistan. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Annual Human Rights Report details our concerns.

Our embassy in Tashkent has funded the participation of an Uzbek human rights non-governmental organisation at the UN Committee Against Torture current session (5-23 November) which is assessing the extent to which Uzbekistan is implementing its obligations under the UN Convention Against Torture.

During the EU-Uzbekistan Human Rights Dialogue in May 2007, the EU expressed its concern at persistent reports that torture continues to be widespread.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much the UK Government have given to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara; [163902]

(2) if he will make representations to Morocco on its obligations as an occupying power to provide for the protection and welfare of the West Saharan population; [163903]

(3) what representations he has made to the UN on ensuring a referendum on the Western Sahara is carried out. [163924]

Dr. Howells: The UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1783 on 31 October, which renewed the mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 30 April 2008. Since 1991, the Government have made assessed contributions of £21.8 million for the maintenance of MINURSO.

The UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy, Peter van Walsum. UK officials play an active role at the UN in New York in discussions on Western Sahara. This includes the negotiation and adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1783. The Resolution also

> "calls upon the parties to continue negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith, taking into account the efforts made since 2006 and developments of the last months, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara".

The UK raises the issue of Western Sahara on a regular basis with the parties, including wider issues of welfare and security. I raised the issue of Western Sahara and the ongoing negotiations process when I spoke to the Moroccan Foreign Minister, Taib Fassi Firhi on 25 October. The UK has encouraged the parties to continue negotiations under UN auspices, as set out in UN Security Council Resolutions 1754 and 1783.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Overseas Aid

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what proportion of his Department's projects in Africa are categorised as high-risk. [162727]

Mr. Thomas: The following information on the risk profile of projects in Africa was gathered on 1 October 2007:

	Total
Number of projects	809
Value of projects (£ million)	3,865
High risk	110
High risk (£ million)	1,026

The proportion of projects classified as high risk is 13 per cent.; or 27 per cent. when taken as a proportion of the commitment value.

The methodology used to rate the level of risk of projects involves an assessment of both the probability of risk factors occurring and the severity of their impact. High risk projects are those where probability of these risk factors occurring is rated high and their impact medium or high, or where probability is rated medium and impact high.

Departmental Consultations

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many consultants his Department employed in each of the last five years; and what this figure is as a percentage of the staff employed by the Department in each of those years. [162625]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The number of consultants engaged centrally by DFID in each of the last five years is shown in the following table. This includes both self-employed individuals and contracts with companies under which significant numbers of people are utilised.

Financial year	*Number of consultants*
2002-03	407
2003-04	349
2004-05	310
2005-06	336
2006-07	273

The majority of consultants are engaged by DFID on behalf of development partners to help them deliver long-term development projects to help reduce poverty. Overall comparison between the number of individual consultants allocated to DFID's work for limited periods of time and DFID's overall staffing complement could not be established without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Expenditure

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which of his Department's budget headings he expects to make the savings of £414 million announced in the Comprehensive Saving Review. [162725]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID—like all other Government Departments—has agreed to make value for money savings of at least 3 per cent. annual net cash releasing gains on our total departmental budget and 5 per cent. annual real reductions in our administration budgets by 2010-11. Savings of 3 per cent. equates to £492 million. In addition to portfolio quality improvements of £66 million and administrative cost savings of £12 million we are committed to savings of £414 million which are broken down over two categories. Bilateral allocative efficiency savings of £257 million were identified alongside multilateral allocative efficiency savings of £157 million. These figures remain indicative and are subject to finalisation in the VFM delivery agreement which DFID is due to publish in December.

The savings will be realised through changes in the allocation of funds across country programmes and multilateral institutions. As in the 2004 spending review, the methodology for assessing gains achieved by more poverty-focused allocation is based on econometric studies by Paul Collier and David Dollar showing that the impact of aid varies with countries' per capita income and policy environment.

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether headcount restraints on the number of staff in his Department have been applied in the last five years. [162294]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In September 2004, following the publication of the Gershon efficiency review, DFID agreed a headcount trajectory with HM Treasury that would see the numbers of Home Civil Service (HCS) staff reduce from 1,907 in March 2004 to 1,610 by March 2008.

Departmental NDPBs

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; who the chairman is of each; and to what salary, including bonuses and expenses, each chairman is entitled. [163615]

Mr. Thomas: DFID sponsors two non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). These are the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission (CSC) and the Crown Agents Holding and Realisation Board (CAHRB). It is also the sponsor department for the CDC Group plc. a public corporation. Details of budget, remit, board membership and board remuneration for each of these bodies are available in the annual reports of CDC and CAHRB and the website of CSC at the links as follows:

http://www.cacuk.org.uk/

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/06-07/0607678.pdf

http://www.cdcgroup.com/files/Report/UploadReport/CDC_AnnRepAcc_2006_web.pdf

Departmental Standards

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has met its achievement targets in each of the last five years. [162726]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The key achievements for the Department over the last five years are set out in the public service agreements (PSAs) which cover the periods 2001-04, 2003-06 and 2005-08. A detailed assessment of progress against all targets is contained in both the departmental report and the autumn performance report which are published each year. The latest assessment of performance which was published in the 2007 annual report contained a full record of progress against the PSA's for both 2003-06 and 2005-08.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will break down the figures referred to in the answer of 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 223W, on Departments: official hospitality, to provide the amount spent on each function at which hospitality expenses were incurred. [162196]

Mr. Thomas: The total spend on entertainment within administration cost budgets in the last 12 months was £245,500. This represents 0.1 per cent. of the administration budget and 0.005 per cent. of the total net resource provision based on the current year estimates for 2007-08. This figure includes working breakfasts and lunches, refreshments at meetings and official entertainment.

It is not possible to break down our costs for official hospitality to provide the amounts spent on each function, without incurring a disproportionate cost.

All entertainment is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of climate change on people in developing countries; [162310]

(2) what assessment he has made of those developing countries that are at risk from the effects of climate change; which of those countries he considers to be most at risk; and if he will make a statement. [162311]

Mr. Thomas: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has recently launched its fourth assessment report, to which the UK provides financial and scientific support. This concludes that the countries most at risk from climate change are those in the seven "mega-deltas" in Asia, semi-arid areas of Africa and low-lying coastal urban areas, as well as small-island developing states.

The IPCC also assesses the effects of climate change on people in developing countries. Of greatest concern are predictions of reduced rainfall in already dry areas, leading to a shorter growing season for farmers. Elsewhere declining glacier cover will affect freshwater availability for more than one-sixth of the world's population.

DFID has undertaken its own climate risk assessments in Bangladesh, China, India, and Kenya. One conclusion is that the early effects of climate change are extremes of drought and rainfall. These are having a direct impact on low-income farmers, and putting people at greater risk from floods and tropical cyclones. DFID is providing £24 million of research funding to the Climate Change Adaptation in Africa programme to better understand these impacts. DFID is also working with the World Bank on producing an index of climate vulnerability.

Developing Countries: Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) if he will make it his policy not to support projects which involve Terminator seed technology; and if he will make a statement; [162374]

(2) what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the potential effects of Terminator seed technology on food security and the livelihoods of poor farmers in developing countries. [162373]

Mr. Thomas: DFID takes genetic modification (GM) in crops and foods and its potential impacts on poor people in developing countries very seriously.

On terminator technology (Genetic Use Restriction Technology or GURTs) the 190 countries which have signed up to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD) decided in 2000 that products incorporating GURTs should not be approved for field testing or commercial use until appropriate scientific assessments have been carried out and the conditions for their safe and beneficial use validated. This decision was reaffirmed in 2006 and remains in force. The 2006 decision also called for respect of farmers' rights to seed preservation and for further research on the impacts of GURTs.

DFID adheres to the moratorium and has not therefore commissioned any recent research, nor has DFID conducted any reviews or evaluations of the potential effects of Terminator seed technology on food security and on the livelihoods of poor farmers in developing countries.

Overseas Aid: Accountancy

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for what reasons he decided to transfer overseas costs from the administration resource budget to the programme budget. [162724]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Costs of programme delivery staff (not including support staff) overseas have been transferred to programme budgets in the comprehensive spending review (CSR) period because DFID and HM Treasury have agreed that they should be regarded as front-line service costs. Under the Treasury's Consolidated Budgeting Guidance (paragraph 4.3) such costs are included in programme rather than administration budgets.

Reconstruction

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether an assessment has been made of the merits of provincial reconstruction teams. [162715]

Mr. Thomas: A number of assessments have been made of the merits of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs). These include a USAID report: 'Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan: An Interagency Assessment' (June 2006) and a United States Institute of Peace report: 'The US Experience of PRTs in Afghanistan' (Oct 2005). Also in 2005 DFID funded a King's College review of DFID involvement in PRTs in Afghanistan. The UK assesses the merits of work performed by the UK-led PRT in Helmand, Afghanistan on a regular basis.

PRTs vary in size and composition, and operate differently depending on the security situation. The UK has spent some £8 million implementing over 170 Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) through the PRT in Helmand since July 2006. These projects support the Government of Afghanistan in response to identified local needs, and have supported our efforts in the areas of security, governance, social and economic development, and counter-narcotics.

Sierra Leone: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial aid was given to Sierra Leone in *(a)* 2002 and *(b)* each subsequent year. [162368]

Mr. Thomas: Information on UK aid to Sierra Leone is available in the DFID publication 'Statistics on International Development 2007'. This publication is available online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Relevant figures are reproduced in the table as follows:

Table 1: UK Total gross public expenditure and financial aid 2002-03 to 2006-07, (£ thousand)

£000

	Total bilateral gross public expenditure (GPEX) to Sierra Leone	*Of which: Financial aid to Sierra Leone*
2002-03	32,190	11,566
2003-04	34,280	13,419
2004-05	27,431	13,408
2005-06	34,208	16,741
2006-07	37,696	13,287

The non-financial aid element of GPEX is made up of technical assistance, humanitarian assistance, debt relief, other DFID bilateral aid and aid from other official UK sources. The imputed share of UK multilateral Official Development Assistance between 2001 and 2005 can be seen in the following table:

Table 2: Imputed UK Share of Multilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) 2001-05

	Sierra Leone (£000)
2001	12,030
2002	4,294
2003	6,849
2004	9,120
2005	11,736

St. Helena: Airports

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to be able to announce a decision on the construction of an airport on the Island of St Helena; and if he will make a statement. [163741]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The deadline for receipt of tenders for the St. Helena airport contract is 30 November 2007. I expect to reach a decision within the second quarter of 2008.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Waiting Lists

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were registered on council housing waiting lists in each local authority on the most recent date for which figures are available. [162015]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, West and Royton (Mr. Meacher) on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 116W.

Departments: Disabled Access

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1159W, which two buildings occupied by her Department are not fully accessible to disabled people; and how many people work in each. [163916]

Mr. Dhanda: The two buildings not fully accessible to disabled people are Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street, London which at this time accommodates approximately 775 people and 2 Victoria Street, Glossop which has an occupation of five.

Disabled Facilities Grant

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will take steps to implement the proposal that disabled facilities grants should be available to improve access to back gardens and other outside areas; [163261]

(2) what estimate she has made of the potential cost to *(a)* central government and *(b)* local government of rebranding the disabled facilities grant as accessible homes grant. [163262]

Mr. Iain Wright: On 13 August 2007 my Department published a summary of responses to the disabled facilities grant (DFG) consultation on the Government's proposal to improve programme delivery.

(http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/disabled-prgramme).

We are currently working on a package of changes to improve the programme and help raise the quality of support provided through DFG, to be announced later this year.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to make a statement on the level of disabled facilities grant funding available for 2008-09. [163267]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department intends to announce the 2008-09 disabled facilities grant allocations in early 2008.

Housing: Low Incomes

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many socially rented houses the Government is proposing to build in each year to 2020. [163926]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* We announced in the Housing Green Paper an increase of new affordable housing to at least 70,000 per annum by 2010-11. Of these, 45,000 homes per annum will be for social rent, with a goal to go further in subsequent years to 50,000 new homes for social rent per annum in the next spending review period.

Housing: Overcrowding

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will place in the Library copies of responses to the discussion paper on updating standards relating to overcrowded housing; [163155]

(2) who has responded to the discussion paper on updating standards relating to overcrowded housing. [163156]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department received substantive responses from 42 local authorities, 30 other stakeholder organisations and three individuals. I have placed copies of the responses received in the Library of the House.

Local Government: Manpower

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials are assisting the Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber in her duties; at what cost to the public purse; and if she will make a statement. [162756]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 24 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 378-9W.

Planning: West Northamptonshire Development Corporation

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what scrutiny her Department has undertaken of planning decisions made by West Northamptonshire Development Corporation in the last 12 months; and what the results of that scrutiny were. [162263]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State determines a small number of planning applications each year under 'call in' and 'recovered appeal' procedures. There have been no such cases involving a decision by the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation since its development control powers came into effect in April 2006.

Six appeals involving refusal to grant planning permission by the corporation in the period since April 2006 have been determined by Inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State. Details can be provided on request.

Regional Planning and Development: South East Region

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for ratification of the South East Regional Spatial Strategy; and what plans there are for subsequent reviews of it. [163886]

Mr. Dhanda: Consultation on the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes for the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South East (The South East Plan) is likely to take place early in 2008, followed by publication of the final RSS later that year.

The Independent Panel that conducted the Examination in Public of the draft RSS has made recommendations regarding reviews of several parts of the Strategy. Those recommendations are currently being considered, and any reviews will be identified as part of the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes.

Transport: Yorkshire and Humberside

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings the Regional Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber has had on funding for transport infrastructure in Yorkshire and the Humber since her appointment; and if she will make a statement. [162415]

Mr. Dhanda: My hon. Friend the Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber has engaged with a number of stakeholders and partners in the region, including the regional development agency, Members of this House and from local government, on a wide range of issues, including funding for transport infrastructure.

Travelling People

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to review legislation on itinerant travellers. [162026]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's Task Group on Site Provision and Enforcement has reviewed the operation of powers for dealing with unauthorised encampments (where Gypsies and Travellers camp on land they do not own) and taken evidence from local authorities and others. The group concluded in its interim report that, rather than making changes to these powers, help should be provided to ensure they are used more effectively. We will be working with the Local Government Association and Improvement and Development Association to achieve this.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legislation is in place to protect owners of land against illegal encampment by itinerant travellers; what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of that legislation; and whether she has had recent discussions with her counterpart in the Northern Ireland Assembly on this matter. [162909]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are a range of powers available to landowners, local authorities and the police to deal with unauthorised encampments, including common law powers, Part 55 Civil Procedures Rules, and sections 61-62, 62A-E and 77-78 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

Our Task Group on Site Provision and Enforcement has reviewed the operation of enforcement powers and taken evidence from local authorities and others. The Group concluded in its interim report that, rather than making changes to these powers, help should be provided to ensure they are used more effectively. We will be working with the Local Government Association and Improvement and Development Association to achieve this.

No recent discussions have taken place with Ministers in the Northern Ireland Assembly on this issue.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has given to *(a)* regional planning bodies and *(b)* local authorities on planning for more traveller sites. [163887]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's statutory and policy framework on the provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites is set out in circular ODPM 1/06 "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Sites", published in February 2006. This is accompanied by guidance on "Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments" (final version published October 2007).

The Department has also provided guidance to *(a)* Regional Planning Bodies "Preparing Regional Spatial Strategy reviews on Gypsies and Travellers by regional planning bodies", which proposes a methodology for identifying pitch requirement at regional level based on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments; and draft guidance to *(b)* local authorities on Gypsy and Traveller site design and management.

These publications can all be found on the Communities and Local Government website: http://www.communities.gov.uk.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria her Department uses to assess whether a local authority is required to plan to establish more authorised traveller sites. [163888]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Act 2004 requires all local housing authorities to carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers residing in or resorting to their district as they are required to assess the accommodation needs of all citizens in its area. Regional Assemblies will consider the results of these assessments in setting out in Regional Spatial Strategies the number of pitches that must be provided in each local planning authority area.

Travelling People: Ireland

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of recent changes in factors affecting the number of itinerant travellers coming to Britain from Ireland. [162025]

Mr. Iain Wright: A "common travel area" is in place between the United Kingdom and Ireland, and therefore no record is kept of the movement of particular ethnic groups between the two countries.

Communities and Local Government publish data twice yearly on the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in England. Recent data do not indicate any unexpected or unexplained increases in the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 15 November 2007

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Terrorism

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the International Civil Aviation Organisation's proposals to provide insurance cover for third party casualties in the event of an aircraft crash resulting from a terrorist attack; and if she will make a statement. [164832]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) is currently working to revise the 1952 Rome Convention on third party liability. The next step is for the ICAO legal committee to consider the latest draft of a convention on unlawful interference. The UK expects to participate in these discussions when they take place next year, but any conclusions remain some way off.

Daedalus Airfield

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what response she has made to the joint planning statement for Daedalus airfield by Fareham and Gosport borough councils with particular regards to their requirement that future development should seek to maximise the benefit of the existing runways for general and private aviation use; and if she will make a statement. [164089]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State has made no response to the Joint Planning Statement for Daedalus, produced by the Fareham and Gosport borough councils in April last year.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contracts her Department has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts are for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163807]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many civil servants in her Department and its predecessors *(a)* transferred to other Government departments and *(b)* left the Civil Service in each of the last five years. [162731]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle) on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 203-07W.

Railways: Tickets

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government is taking to encourage co-ordination of rail booking systems throughout Europe; and if she will make a statement. [164354]

Ruth Kelly: The Government welcomes the initiative announced in July by Eurostar, as part of Railteam, to give travellers seamless high-speed train travel across international borders. From 2009 their new distribution system will allow international travellers to purchase, make a reservation and receive tickets for Railteam members' services from any distributor of European rail tickets in one transaction.

The Government have been participating in European initiatives such as the recently adopted Regulation on Rail Passenger Rights, and is monitoring the early development of European technical standards on through ticketing and passenger information systems for travel between European railway destinations.

The Government believe that the development of rail booking systems throughout Europe is best taken forward as a commercial matter by the operators.

Repairs and Maintenance: A1

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons are for the delay in the decision and announcement of the A1 motorway upgrade for Disforth to Barton; what her estimate is of the likely start date of the upgrade; and when she expects the inspector's report on the proposed upgrade to be published. [162078]

Mr. Tom Harris: The inspector's report on the A1 Dishforth to Barton scheme is currently being considered. We expect to announce our decision in early 2008 together with publication of the inspectors report. Subject to the scheme orders being confirmed, it is currently anticipated that works would start on site in late summer 2008.

Walking and Cycling

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff are employed by her Department to work on policies to encourage more *(a)* walking and *(b)* cycling. [163744]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Walking and cycling policies do not fall into neat boxes which enable us to identify exactly how many people deal with each area. The Department's walking and cycling team currently consists of six people. Another team, the sustainable travel team, promotes all forms of sustainable travel which clearly has a strong emphasis on walking and cycling. This includes the Department for Transport (DFT) half of the DFT/Department for Children, Schools and Families School Travel Project: 14,000

schools have school travel plans and for "Walking to school" grants in which 3,200 primary schools are receiving grants for increasing walking through walking buses and other walking initiatives. In addition, colleagues in other teams including traffic management, road safety and communications for example also work on policies to encourage and promote walking and cycling. We also created an independent body, Cycling England, in 2005 which has a budget of £10 million per annum to promote cycling.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Birds of Prey

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to protect birds of prey. [163878]

Joan Ruddock: Birds of prey enjoy high levels of protection from killing and taking. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is an offence to kill, take or possess wild birds, including all birds of prey and their eggs. It is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird listed on Schedule 1 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Most species of birds of prey are listed on Schedule 1.

British Waterways

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he expects to publish the Government's full response to the Select Committee on Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' recent report on British Waterways before the Christmas recess. [164471]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee published the Government's response (HC1059) on 17 October 2007.

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [164167]

Jonathan Shaw: For reasons of commercial sensitivity it is not possible to itemise the net book value and expected sale revenue of each asset currently planned for disposal. However the Department is taking professional advice to ensure value for money and to maximise the return on these disposals.

The Department currently anticipates total receipts from the sale of assets of approximately £9 million in 2007-08; £36 million in 2008-09; £10 million in 2009-10 and £5 million in 2010-11. The disposals planned for the latter three years will form part of the Department's asset management strategy to be published in December this year.

Estimates of sale proceeds are subject to fluctuations in the property market and cannot be guaranteed, nor can it be stated with certainty exactly when these sales will take place.

It should also be noted that the figures apply to the wider DEFRA network, not just to the core Department. The assets in question are surplus or under-utilised land and property. The largest anticipated sale is that of DEFRA-owned land and buildings at Guildford, and we expect this to account for approximately one third of the income from asset disposals over the period 2007-08 to 2010-11.

Departmental Consultations

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contracts his Department signed on a consultancy basis with a net value of more than £20,000 in each of the last five years. [162077]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 78-79W.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contracts his Department has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts are for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163813]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 22 October 2006, *Official Report*, columns 78-79W.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average hourly rate paid to consultants hired by his Department was in each of the last five years. [162076]

Jonathan Shaw: The rates paid to consultants reflect the scope and duration of the work; the grade and experience of the consultant(s) chosen for the work; and supply market conditions.

The Department does not hold information centrally on the average hourly rate paid to consultants hired by the Department in each of the last five years. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which companies have contracts to supply his Department with fish; and when those contracts will end. [162288]

Jonathan Shaw: There are two companies supplying the core Department with fish. Baxter Storey who already promote the use of MSC fish on DEFRA sites

and Aramark. The Baxter Storey contract is due to finish in January 2010 and the Aramark contract in June 2009 unless extensions are granted. Both organisations are committed to the use of sustainable fish supplies.

Aramark for the month of November, will be running a Sustainable Fish promotional campaign on DEFRA sites. On a particular day, not Friday, they will offer their customers the opportunity to sample sustainable white fish alternatives to Cod and Haddock, products such as MSC Hake, Coley, Pollock, Pangasius and Hoki. They will ask customers for feedback on the products and once the feedback has been collated they hope to be in a position to remove Cod and Haddock completely. They have already run this campaign at other customer sites, where customers voted overwhelmingly to remove Cod and Haddock completely from the menu, having enjoyed the alternatives.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration his Department has given to introducing a sustainable seafood procurement policy. [162289]

Jonathan Shaw: Guidance has been made available to all government procurers on the inclusion of a clause, for catering contracts, that addresses the issue of sourcing sustainable seafood. Advice on how to do this is given in the model specification clauses included in DEFRA's "Catering Services and Food Procurement Toolkit"—see section 2(A) and appendix E. URL:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/pdf/psfpi-clauses.pdf

DEFRA's own catering contract includes this model clause.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what quantity of cod from the North Sea or Eastern Baltic was procured by his Department in 2006. [162290]

Jonathan Shaw: Information supplied by the catering service providers to the core Department shows that "approximately 2.5 kilos per week of cod is used". There is only one supplier currently serving cod on one site. The company, Aramark, are proposing to substitute it with alternatives such as MSC Hake, Coley, Pollock, Pangasius and Hoki if a campaign to promote these species of fish from sustainable sources is well received by customers. Trials elsewhere have proved successful.

Direct Mail: Finance

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the *(a)* financial value of direct mail to Royal Mail and *(b)* potential impact on Royal Mail's revenues of the introduction of an enforced opt-in system for direct mail; [164143]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the potential impact on the income of the charitable sector of the introduction of an opt-in system for direct mail. [164144]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* The Waste Strategy for England 2007 commits the Government to exploring with the Direct Marketing Association (DMA) whether an opt-in system would be an appropriate mechanism to further reduce unnecessary direct mail. My officials have recently begun discussions on this with the DMA but it is too early for any conclusions to have been reached. My officials also plan to hold discussions with the Royal Mail and with other interested parties on this issue.

If discussions with the DMA and others suggest that an opt-in system for direct mail would be a practicable and effective way of reducing unwanted direct mail, the Government would put forward draft proposals and hold a full and open consultation on them with all interested parties, including of course the Royal Mail and the charitable sector. Before introducing any new system, and as part of these consultations, an impact assessment would be prepared setting out the anticipated costs and benefits for those affected.

Dogs: Animal Welfare

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to ban the sale of electric shock training devices for dogs; and if he will make a statement. [162506]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no plans at present to ban the sale and use of 'electric shock collars'.

DEFRA has recognised that further research into these types of collars is a priority and a study, based on observation of collars already in use, has been commissioned. This is due to be completed in 2010.

DEFRA has also asked the Companion Animal Welfare Council, a key advisory body for government on companion animal welfare matters, to undertake an independent study of the available evidence on the use of these electronic training aids. This will help to inform policy development and complement the DEFRA-funded study.

All research into these areas commissioned by government will be put into the public domain after the study is complete.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 provides powers to prohibit or ban the use of any equipment in England and Wales in relation to animals. This can be done through secondary legislation, if considered necessary.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1088W.

Dolphins: Japan

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he last met his Japanese counterpart to discuss the killing of dolphins in Japanese waters; and if he will make a statement. [163854]

Jonathan Shaw: There have been no recent discussions between DEFRA Ministers and Japanese ministers on this issue.

The UK recognises with deep concern that these actions still occur in Japanese coastal waters and regularly raise the matter with Japan at the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

The UK will continue to be extremely critical of these small cetacean (dolphin and porpoise) hunts because of the limited regulation, cruelty and unsustainable numbers taken.

Ducks

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes he proposes to make in respect of the rules and regulations for keeping and breeding ducks for human consumption; what assessment he has made of the welfare of ducks being so bred; and if he will make a statement. [162379]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The Animal Welfare Act 2006 protects the welfare of animals on-farm and makes it an offence to cause suffering to any animal. The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 lay down requirements in respect of general welfare, inspection, housing and feeding for all farm animals. The welfare of ducks is also covered by a specific code of recommendations. Flock-keepers are required by law to have access to and be familiar with this code, which encourages high standards of husbandry.

Animal Health (AH) enforces the welfare legislation and carries out regular inspections at farm premises to check the welfare of livestock. AH also investigates all complaints and allegations about poor welfare on-farm.

DEFRA has funded a three-year research project to assess the welfare of ducks. The work involved a comprehensive assessment of different commercial systems currently in use in this country. The project is due to report back soon.

Environment Protection: EC action

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to launch the next tranche of consultations on the Environmental Liability Directive. [163270]

Joan Ruddock: The second consultation on the Environmental Liability Directive, accompanied by draft regulations, draft guidance and a revised impact assessment will be launched early in the new year.

Inland Waterways

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of trends in the number of boats using inland waterways; and if he will make a statement. [164671]

Jonathan Shaw: As can be seen from the following table, the number of boats using our inland waterways owned or managed by British Waterways, the Environment Agency and the Broads Authority over the last five years has risen and reflects the increasing popularity of boating. DEFRA does not keep records of boat numbers on waterways managed by other navigation bodies.

	British Waterways	*Environment Agency*	*Broads Authority*	*Total*
2002	26,426	33,127	12,782	72,335
2003	26,240	32,187	12,923	71,350
2004	27,078	31,342	12,917	71,337
2005	29,000	31,535	12,770	73,305
2006	30,905	31,864	12,841	75,610

Inland Waterways: Fees and Charges

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on British Waterways' proposed increases in *(a)* licence and *(b)* mooring fees for boats using the inland waterways network; and if he will make a statement. [164674]

Jonathan Shaw: These are operational matters for British Waterways. However, I have received various representations, in the form of letters, emails and parliamentary questions from hon. Members.

British Waterways is currently out to consultation on its proposals to increase its licence fees. On mooring fees, British Waterways has assured me that it is committed to a full formal consultation on its moorings trial after completion of a six month trial period. The results of this consultation, as well as the practical experience gained from the trial, will inform its decision as to whether it continues the trial and whether it makes it a permanent arrangement or not.

I have written to the chairman of British Waterways asking to be kept informed of progress and have his assurance that British Waterways is committed to engaging with its stakeholders on this and other issues. I plan to meet with a cross-section of waterway stakeholders in December to discuss a range of issues of concern to them.

Ivory

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to eradicate the illegal ivory trade in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [163852]

Joan Ruddock: My Department part funds the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) which this year has, for the first time, produced an overarching UK intelligence survey of wildlife crime. This is an important step forward in our efforts to eradicate illegal wildlife trade and ivory is one of the key elements in this study. I am confident that this joint agency approach with the NWCU bringing all elements of intelligence collection together will pay real dividends in the fight against this illegal trade.

In addition we have spent considerable time raising awareness of controls and restrictions relating to ivory trade with the antiques trade through trade associations and auctioneers. We also commissioned research into ageing ivory which is important as antique worked ivory items are exempt from controls.

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the international trade in illegal ivory is eradicated. [163855]

Joan Ruddock: International commercial trade in ivory has been prohibited under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) since 1989 and this is actively enforced by HM Revenue and Customs at our borders and the police service internally. The illegal import or export of ivory can result in a large fine and/or several years imprisonment.

The UK fully supports efforts undertaken by the CITES community to improve enforcement activity in source and destination markets as well as working to eradicate illegal trade within the UK itself. The UK financially supports two key CITES programmes related to ivory trade: the Monitoring of the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) programmes. These enable the international community to monitor poaching and illegal trade levels so resources can be targeted where they are most needed.

Lighting

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what studies have been undertaken by his Department into the *(a)* affordability and *(b)* safety of high efficiency light bulbs. [162059]

Joan Ruddock: My Department, via the Market Transformation Programme, works with the lighting industry, the Energy Saving Trust and Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes to promote energy efficient lighting which is both commercially viable and acceptable to consumers.

While the upfront cost of energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) has been historically greater than inefficient tungsten filament bulbs, research carried out by the Energy Saving Trust suggests that, because they last up to 10 times longer and use significantly less energy to generate equivalent light levels, efficient bulbs can save householders up to £60 over the lifetime of a bulb in reduced energy bills and replacement costs.

New products are continually being developed and the retail prices of efficient bulbs have fallen significantly in recent years. In addition, the Energy Efficiency Commitment scheme has helped to drive down the price of energy efficient products, including CFLs, as energy suppliers work with retailers and manufacturers to offer good quality and affordable products to customers. Under the scheme, approximately 82 million CFLs have been distributed or sold to consumers since 2002.

We are not aware of any particular safety issues associated with high efficiency light bulbs such as CFLs. CFLs do contain a small amount of mercury, typically 3-4 mg, and should be disposed of responsibly. The European Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive places a responsibility on manufacturers to ensure that these bulbs are disposed of in a safe manner.

Packaging: EU Law

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007 apply to UK companies that sell products which were packaged in *(a)* other EU countries which have implemented the EC Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste 94/62/EC and *(b)* non-EU countries. [164468]

Joan Ruddock: Any business which places packaging or packaging materials on the UK market and has an annual turnover of more than £2 million and handles more than 50 tonnes of packaging a year is obligated under the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007 to recover and recycle a proportion of the packaging they handle.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has considered the merits of compelling packaging on products sold in the UK to carry a compliance mark to signify that the producer has complied with the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007. [164470]

Joan Ruddock: In the UK, only companies which have a turnover of over £2 million and handle over 50 tonnes of packaging a year are obligated under the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007. Therefore, companies below this threshold level would not need to comply with the provisions in the regulations and would not carry a compliance mark. A mandatory compliance mark could therefore be misleading for consumers.

Paper: Recycling

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to increase recycling rates for paper associated with direct mail. [164141]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 14 November 2007]*: In July 2003 the Government signed an agreement with the Direct Marketing Association (DMA), which represents about 900 members involved in the direct mail and promotions industry, to raise recycling levels of direct mail to 30 per cent. by the end of 2005, 55 per cent. by the end of 2009 and 70 per cent. by the end of 2013. In 2003 about 13 per cent. of direct mail was recycled. The DMA estimates that recycling of direct mail rose to 28-30 per cent. in 2005.

The DMA also agreed to further develop the Mailing Preference Service (MPS) to improve the targeting of addressed direct mail, provide greater flexibility for both consumers and producers, and increase awareness of the service among householders. The DMA estimates that registrations with the MPS rose from 1.1 million in 2003 to 2.7 million in 2005.

Together with the Waste and Resources Action programme (WRAP), the DMA is working to develop a recycle logo to be printed on all direct mail. The DMA is also working with WRAP in conjunction with the paper mills and adhesive manufacturers to minimise the use of materials that may contaminate the recycling process.

The Waste Strategy for England 2007 commits the Government to working with the DMA to develop an opt-out system for unaddressed direct mail, and to exploring with them whether an opt-in system would be an appropriate mechanism to further reduce unnecessary direct mail. These discussions are underway.

Recycling: Plastics

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what consideration has been given to the relative environmental merits of plastic milk bottles and re-usable glass bottles; and if he will make a statement; [162975]

(2) whether consideration has been given to the introduction of deposits on glass and plastic bottles; and if he will make a statement. [162977]

Joan Ruddock: My Department has not made any assessment of the merits of using plastic milk bottles or re-usable glass bottles. Assessing the most sustainable option for packaging containers will depend on a number of factors, including transport and the re-use or recycling of materials.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is currently undertaking a life-cycle analysis of milk packaging, which will look at the various different glass and plastic options and will include consideration of the impact of returnable packaging systems. This project is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2008. WRAP is also working with local authorities and manufacturers to increase recycling of both glass and plastic bottles.

A deposit system for bottles has an obvious appeal to the public, however there would be difficulties in implementing such a system in the UK. In 2004, DEFRA commissioned a project to evaluate whether a deposit system could provide additional value, in combination with the current packaging waste recovery system established in the UK, to achieve wider EC Directive targets. This work took into account existing deposit and return schemes in Europe, the USA and Canada.

The report's conclusion was that a deposit scheme may not achieve our overall environmental goals since such systems favour packaging formats that do not necessarily deliver environmental benefits.

A deposit scheme would be extremely expensive when compared to the existing UK packaging system, which uses a market mechanism and a tradable "packaging waste recovery note" (PRN). This system is reputedly the most cost-effective system in Europe for implementing the Packaging Directive.

Seas and Oceans: EC action

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has discussed the planned UK Marine Bill and associated White Paper with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* counterparts from other countries; and if he will make a statement. [163229]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA ministers and officials have regular discussions with counterparts from member states and the European Commission on a wide range of marine issues, including our proposals for marine legislation.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union, COM(2007) 575 final, (1) if he will make a statement on the proposal to give the Commission the power to develop a roadmap in 2008 to facilitate the development of maritime spatial planning by member states; and if he will make a statement; [163230]

(2) when he expects the proposed roadmap towards marine spatial planning by member states to be introduced; what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the proposal with the proposed Marine Bill; and if he will make a statement. [163257]

Jonathan Shaw: We anticipate that the Commission will introduce the roadmap towards marine spatial planning some time before 2009. The existing outline proposals for an Integrated Maritime Policy set out a framework within which member states can develop their own marine planning arrangements. We believe the UK's current approach will be compatible with the proposed framework, and we will develop our view on the further detailed proposals as they emerge.

We will be well placed to continue to influence EU policy development on the roadmap because of our parallel work on a Marine Bill.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union, COM(2007) 575 final, whether there are any differences between the Commission's use of the concept of maritime spatial planning and his Department's use of the concept of marine spatial planning in the Marine Bill White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [163231]

Jonathan Shaw: We see no substantial differences between the two concepts. Indeed, we agree with the concept within the Integrated Maritime Policy that marine spatial planning is a key tool for improving the sustainable development and restoration of marine and coastal areas. As we set out in the proposals in the Marine Bill White Paper in March 2007, marine planning will clarify our marine objectives and priorities for the future, and direct decision-makers and users towards more efficient, sustainable use and protection of our marine resources.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what impact the publication of the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union, COM(2007) 575 final, had on the timetable for the Marine Bill; and if he will make a statement. [163249]

Jonathan Shaw: Publication of the Communication has not had an impact on the timetable for the Marine Bill, which we are working to publish in draft in spring 2008.

WALES

Departmental: Manpower

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the full-time equivalent headcount in his Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for his Department is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [163983]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office publishes its headcount in its annual departmental report which is available in the House Library or via our website:

www.walesoffice.gov.uk

The planned full-time equivalent headcount stands at 62 per year for each year, and will remain so for 2009-10. The actual out-turn has consistently been below this.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Football: World Cup

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what documentation his Department has produced on the 2018 FIFA World cup bid since 27 June. [164544]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has produced regular updates for Ministers on the 2018 FIFA World cup bid since 27 June.

Music Mentoring Programme

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people have taken part in the Music Mentoring Programme. [164241]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* 1,285 people have taken part in the Respect music mentoring programme since it was launched on 1 November 2006. Youth Music and its partners have appointed and trained 70 adult mentors and 149 peer mentors (aged 16 to 25). 1,066 young people have taken part in either one-to-one or group music mentoring sessions as part of the scheme.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many mentors have been appointed as part of the Music Mentoring Programme announced on 1 November 2006. [164242]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* Youth Music and its partners have appointed and trained 70 adult mentors and 149 peer mentors (aged 16 to 25) since 1 November 2006 as part of the music mentoring programme.

Olympic Games 2012: Scholarships

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total cost was of the 2012 scholarship programme in each of the last three years. [164239]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* The total cost of the TASS 2012 scholarship programme in each of the last three years is shown in the following table.

	Total cost (£)
2004-05	0
2005-06	875,000
2006-07	946,000

SCOTLAND

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what contracts his Department has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts are for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163815]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has no contracts with external consultants.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what efficiency savings projects his Department put in place under the Spending Review 2004 targets; on what date each was initiated; how much each was expected to contribute to the target; how much was saved by each; and if he will make a statement. [164149]

David Cairns: Following the 2004 spending review, provision for the Scotland Office and Office of the Advocate General was flat in nominal terms over the SR04 period. The Offices are committed to achieving efficiency and effectiveness in all areas of their activities and reduced their complement by over 21 per cent. between 2003-04 and 2004-05 with further reductions thereafter. Details are contained in the Offices' Annual Reports.

Departmental Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland at which functions during the last 12 months his Department incurred hospitality expenses and how much has been incurred on each occasion. [162795]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1363W.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the full-time equivalent headcount in his Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for his Department is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [163976]

David Cairns: The complement and actual staff numbers of the Scotland Office are published in the Office's Annual Report, copies of which are available in the House Library; decisions on the complement for 2009-10 have still to be taken in the light of the CSR2007 settlement.

Departmental Visits

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his official engagements were between 8 and 31 October 2007. [162638]

Des Browne: From Monday 8 October to Tuesday 9 October I was in London where I had various meetings, including with Ministerial colleagues and officials from the Scotland Office and MOD. On Tuesday 9 October I attended Cabinet, had a telephone conversation with the First Minister of Scotland and attended the Chancellor's statement on the Comprehensive Spending Review. I had no Scotland Office engagements on Wednesday 10 October, Thursday 11 October or Friday 12 October.

On Saturday 13 October I attended the Scotland v. Ukraine Euro 2008 Qualifier at Hampden Park, Glasgow. On Sunday 14 October I attended the National Youth Orchestras of Scotland Futures performance at Glasgow City Halls.

From Monday 15 October to Wednesday 17 October I was in London where I had various meetings, including with Ministerial colleagues and officials from the Scotland Office and MOD. On Tuesday 16 October I attended Cabinet, and answered Scottish Questions at the House of Commons. That evening I attended the Border and Immigration Agency reception in Dover House. On Wednesday 17 October I met the Chief Executive of Ofgem and that evening I attended the Poppy Scotland reception in Dover House.

From Thursday 18 October to Saturday 20 October I had no Scotland Office engagements. From Monday 22 October to Tuesday 23 October I was in London where I had various meetings, including with Ministerial colleagues and officials from the Scotland Office and MOD. On Tuesday 23 October I attended Cabinet. That afternoon I delivered a statement on the Gould report in the House of Commons. That evening I attended the CBI reception in Dover House. From Wednesday 24 October to Thursday 25 October I had no Scotland Office engagements.

On Friday 26 October I attended the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce business breakfast. That afternoon I attended the launch of Stagecoach's bio-diesel coaches in Kilmarnock. From Saturday 27 October to Wednesday 31 October I had no Scotland Office engagements.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many civil servants are employed in provincial reconstruction teams in Afghanistan. [162717]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

The UK employs a broad range of civilian staff in support of the Government of Afghanistan to help develop a stable and secure Afghanistan. Over 30 UK-based staff are employed from across the Government, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, the Ministry of Defence and the Afghanistan Drugs Inter-Departmental Unit in provincial reconstruction teams. Their roles include work in governance, reconstruction and development, security, and counter narcotics.

Departmental ICT

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent implementing the ATLAS enterprise resource planning system. [162227]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID's enterprise resource planning system is called ARIES (Activities Reporting and Information E-System).

Further to the answer given to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 487W, we have agreed two contract amendments, increasing the contract value to £16 million to finance additional work on testing, compliance with disability equality standards for the accessibility of the system and the training of users. The total expenditure to date, including internal and supplier costs, is £18.1 million.

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many civil servants in his Department *(a)* transferred to other Government departments and *(b)* left the Civil Service in each of the last five years. [162733]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 203-07W.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development further to his letter of 1 August, when he expects to write to the hon. Member for Beaconsfield. [163944]

Mr. Thomas: A reply to the hon. Member's letter of 1 August, from my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State (Baroness Vadera), has now been issued.

Pakistan: Elections

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what stage has been reached in the implementation of his Department's financial support for the electoral process in Pakistan, as announced in January; and what implications the current situation in Pakistan has for this programme. [164346]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We have approved £3.5 million to support the electoral process in Pakistan, including strengthening the administrative capacity of the Election Commission of Pakistan and supporting civil society work to increase turnout and educate voters. £1.34 million of the £3.5 million has been spent.

While we welcome President Musharraf's undertaking to hold elections on schedule, we remain deeply concerned about the situation in Pakistan. We have called on President Musharraf to: restore the constitution and

create the conditions necessary to guarantee free and fair elections on schedule in January; release all political prisoners, including members of the judiciary and human rights activists; energetically pursue reconciliation with the political opposition; honour his commitment to step down as Chief of Army Staff and relax restrictions on the media.

We are keeping our support for elections under review.

St. Helena

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to visit the Island of St. Helena following the appointment of a new Governor; and if he will make a statement. [163740]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I do not have any plans to visit the island of St. Helena following the appointment of a new governor.

JUSTICE

Consultants: Contracts

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contracts his Department has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts are for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163818]

Mr. Hanson: My Department is currently collating information on the use of external consultants in the current financial year and will write to the hon. Member with a substantive reply to his question as soon as possible. A copy of my substantive reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Crime: Victims

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of victims of crime reported satisfaction with the criminal justice system in each of the last 10 years. [164181]

Maria Eagle: Since 2003-04 the British Crime Survey has included a question that asks respondents who were a victim of crime in the last 12 months how satisfied they were with the way the police and other criminal justice agencies handled the incident. The following table shows the available information on the proportion of victims who said that they were either 'very' or 'fairly satisfied'.

Proportion of victims of crime from the British Crime Survey who were very/fairly satisfied with the police and other criminal justice agencies handling of the incident

	Proportion very/fairly satisfied
2003-04[1]	59
2004-05	59
2005-06	59
2006-07	60

[1] October 2003 to March 2004.

Crimes of Violence: Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders released on end of custody licences from each prison in England and Wales since 29th June had been convicted of violence against the person. [164180]

Mr. Hanson: This information is available on the Ministry of Justice website. The total number of releases by offence group for the first week of the scheme, the remainder of July, and every subsequent month since then. For the period from 29 June to 30 September there have been 1,544 releases.

29 June to 5 July 2007:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/2007-07tables-for-ECL-report.xls

6 July to 31 July 2007:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/stats-ecl-0707.pdf

1 August to 31 August 2007:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/stats-ecl-0807.pdf

1 September to 30 September 2007:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/stats-ecl-0907.pdf

It is not possible to reliably determine the numbers released in the violence against the person group for individual establishments, which would require checking of the precise offence for each release. Individual case records at every establishment would need to be checked to ensure accuracy, at disproportionate cost.

Prison service guidance makes it clear that prisoners serving sentences for the most serious types of violence against the person offences are ineligible for release under End of Custody Licence. The list of excluded offences is at Annex A to Prison Service Instruction 42/2007 which is available on the Prison Service website.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Welsh speakers his Department employs. [162898]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not held centrally and would involve a manual check of all staff records which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the full-time equivalent headcount in his Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for his Department is for (a) 2008-09 and (b) 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [163975]

Maria Eagle: Full time equivalent (FTE) headcount for the Ministry of Justice is published in the ONS quarterly work force statistics. The latest data (published on 12 September, relating to staff in post at 30 June 2007) show that 79,920 FTEs work in the Ministry of Justice.

Forecasts for the years 2008-09 and 2009-10 are currently being reviewed, in the light of the comprehensive spending review settlement announced on 9 October 2007.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to reply to the letter of 18 July from the hon. Member for Beaconsfield. [163942]

Mr. Hanson: I apologise for the delay. I replied to the hon. Member on behalf of the Secretary of State for Justice on Monday 12 November 2007.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to respond to the letter of 11 April 2006 from the hon. Member for Beaconsfield. [163947]

Maria Eagle: I can confirm that the hon. Member's letter was received on 18 April 2006. Unfortunately, however, it has been mislaid. Arrangements have been made to obtain a further copy and I will write to the hon. Member soon. I am very sorry for this unfortunate incident.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons working for his Department have unspent criminal convictions. [163349]

Maria Eagle: Information on individual employees' unspent convictions is not kept centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost. Criminal record information (unspent and, in certain cases, spent convictions) is requested from applicants applying for jobs within the Ministry, and for certain jobs, requested from the CRB, as part of our recruitment procedures. Employees are also under a continuing obligation to declare any criminal convictions they may receive while they are employed by the Ministry.

In both circumstances, decisions on the appropriate action to take when convictions come to light are taken locally by managers supported by HR officers who have been trained in dealing with criminal records information.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what average length of time has been spent on purposeful activity by those detained in each *(a)* prison and *(b)* young offender institutions in England and Wales in the last 12 months. [164178]

Mr. Hanson: The average number of hours of purposeful activity per prisoner per week, for each establishment during the financial year 2006-07 is shown in the following table. The primary function is shown for each establishment, with young offender institutes and male juvenile establishments listed first.

Average number of hours of purposeful activity per prisoner per week, 2006-07

Prison	*Primary function*	*Purposeful activity per prisoner per week*
Aylesbury	Male closed young offender	21.8
Brinsford	Male closed young offender	28.8
Castington	Male closed young offender	25.7
Deerbolt	Male closed young offender	20.8
Feltham	Male closed young offender	30.1
Glen Parva	Male closed young offender	23.0
Hindley	Male closed young offender	29.6
Lancaster Farms	Male closed young offender	26.2
Northallerton	Male closed young offender	25.8
Portland	Male closed young offender	21.7
Reading	Male closed young offender	20.6
Rochester	Male closed young offender	25.7
Stoke Heath	Male closed young offender	25.9
Swinfen Hall	Male closed young offender	27.4
Thorn Cross	Male open young offender	40.0
Ashfield	Male juvenile	30.0
Huntercombe	Male juvenile	28.6
Warren Hill	Male juvenile	25.8
Werrington	Male juvenile	31.5
Wetherby	Male juvenile	31.1
Albany	Category B	23.0
Dovegate	Category B	31.2
Garth	Category B	25.5
Gartree	Category B	25.0
Grendon	Category B	30.2
Highdown	Category B	16.3
Kingston	Category B	25.6
Lowdham Grange	Category B	27.4
Parkhurst	Category B	23.3
Rye Hill	Category B	28.5
Swaleside	Category B	24.1
Acklington	Category C	22.2
Ashwell	Category C	31.7
Blundeston	Category C	25.9
Brockhill	Category C	18.9
Buckley Hall	Category C	25.5
Bullwood Hall	Category C	21.0
Camp Hill	Category C	22.0
Canterbury	Category C	22.3
Channings Wood	Category C	26.1
Coldingley	Category C	32.0
Dartmoor	Category C	23.1
Edmunds Hill	Category C	23.5
Erlestoke	Category C	25.5
Everthorpe	Category C	28.0
Featherstone	Category C	26.1

Average number of hours of purposeful activity per prisoner per week, 2006-07

Prison	Primary function	Purposeful activity per prisoner per week
Guys Marsh	Category C	29.8
Haverigg	Category C	28.9
Highpoint	Category C	25.6
Lancaster	Category C	22.9
Lindholme	Category C	25.5
Littlehey	Category C	25.0
Maidstone	Category C	22.9
Moorland	Category C	30.7
Mount	Category C	27.1
Onley	Category C	25.7
Ranby	Category C	24.8
Risley	Category C	25.3
Shepton Mallet	Category C	25.5
Stafford	Category C	27.1
Stocken	Category C	27.0
Usk\Prescoed	Category C	36.5
Verne	Category C	28.8
Wayland	Category C	26.4
Wealstun	Category C	28.3
Wellingborough	Category C	25.8
Whatton	Category C	22.0
Wolds	Category C	30.2
Wymott	Category C	30.4
Frankland	Dispersal	20.3
Full Sutton	Dispersal	20.0
Long Lartin	Dispersal	20.7
Wakefield	Dispersal	16.8
Whitemoor	Dispersal	21.6
Cookham Wood	Female closed	29.0
Downview	Female closed	27.5
Foston Hall	Female closed	22.6
Send	Female closed	31.6
Bronzefield	Female local	29.4
Eastwood Park	Female local	24.5
Holloway	Female local	24.0
Low Newton	Female local	24.8
New Hall	Female local	24.0
Styal	Female local	22.0
Askham Grange	Female open	41.3
East Sutton Park	Female open	43.4
Altcourse	Male local	35.0
Bedford	Male local	19.8
Belmarsh	Male local	14.9
Birmingham	Male local	20.9
Blakenhurst	Male local	27.1
Bristol	Male local	17.6
Brixton	Male local	18.0
Bullingdon	Male local	21.5
Cardiff	Male local	25.6
Chelmsford	Male local	23.3
Doncaster	Male local	23.3
Dorchester	Male local	17.7
Durham	Male local	17.4
Elmley	Male local	19.5
Exeter	Male local	19.8
Forest Bank	Male local	26.6
Gloucester	Male local	19.8
Holme House	Male local	17.3
Hull	Male local	23.5
Leeds	Male local	23.5

Average number of hours of purposeful activity per prisoner per week, 2006-07

Prison	Primary function	Purposeful activity per prisoner per week
Leicester	Male local	25.5
Lewes	Male local	22.3
Lincoln	Male local	19.4
Liverpool	Male local	21.5
Manchester	Male local	22.5
Norwich	Male local	22.1
Nottingham	Male local	24.7
Pare	Male local	32.2
Pentonville	Male local	17.3
Preston	Male local	20.3
Shrewsbury	Male local	19.1
Swansea	Male local	17.2
Wandsworth	Male local	23.0
Winchester	Male local	21.8
Woodhill	Male local	17.3
Wormwood Scrubs	Male local	21.5
Ford	Male open	40.7
Hewell Grange	Male open	41.4
Hollesley Bay	Male open	38.2
Kirkham	Male open	40.7
Leyhill	Male open	39.6
North Sea Camp	Male open	39.5
Standford Hill	Male open	38.8
Sudbury	Male open	41.3
Blantyre House	Semi open	55.7
Drake Hall	Semi open	34.1
Haslar	Semi open	53.3
Kirklevington	Semi open	54.5
Latchmere House	Semi open	49.2
Morton Hall	Semi open	32.7

Prisons: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure was incurred for maintenance and repair of prisoner accommodation in 2006-07. [164782]

Maria Eagle: National Offender Management Service (NOMS) information on major maintenance is recorded under project headings and to identify work that was carried out solely on prisoner accommodation could be done only at disproportionate cost.

In the year 2006-07, £70 million was spent on major maintenance projects across the custodial estate and a further £105.5 million on major refurbishment projects. Prison establishments also have limited allocations of funding for local maintenance and repairs.

Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department has issued to the Crown Prosecution Service on plea bargaining. [163736]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

The Attorney-General issued guidelines on the acceptance of pleas and the prosecutor's role in the sentencing exercise in October 2005; these can be found on

www.attorneygeneral.gov.uk.

These guidelines superceded earlier guidance on the acceptance of pleas issued by the Attorney-General in December 2000.

Sexual Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of vice-related offences in England and Wales in each of the last five years; and how many of these have been (i) UK citizens, (ii) EU foreign nationals and (iii) non-EU foreign nationals. [163675]

Maria Eagle: There is no specific definition of a 'vice'-related offence, however there are a number of offences which can, in some cases, relate to vice. Information on the number of people proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for these offences in England and Wales from 2001 to 2005 are provided in the following table.

Information on the nationality of those proceeded against is not held by my Department, and data for 2006 will be available shortly.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for selected sexual offences, England and Wales 2001-2005[1, 2]

Offence description	Principal statute	Proceeded against					Found guilty				
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Kerb-crawling.	Sexual Offences Act 1985 Sec 1	916	1,053	956	841	717	775	891	834	760	635
Placing an advertisement relating to prostitution.	Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S.46.	6	586	420	410	435	5	549	396	376	408
Common prostitute loitering or soliciting for the purpose of prostitution.	Street Offences Act 1959 Sec 1	3,129	2,909	2,956	2,002	1,376	2,841	2,668	2,627	1,735	1,116
	Other offences[3]	147	178	134	162	162	104	133	97	106	97
	Total	4,198	4,726	4,466	3,415	2,690	3,725	4,241	3,954	2,977	2,256

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes offences under the Sexual Offences Act 1956 Secs 2-4, 9, 22-24, 27-29, 30, 31, 33A, the Sexual Offences Act 1967 Sec 5(1), the sexual Offences Act 1985 Sec 2, the sexual Offences Act 2003 SS 14, 47-50, 52, 53, 55, 57-58, 62 and the Vagrancy Act 1824 Sec 3 and 4.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many business support staff were employed by statutory agencies operating within the Copeland area in the last period for which figures are available. [163046]

Mr. Timms: Data are only available for West Cumbria Development Agency (WCDA) staff, which was the main organisation providing support in the Copeland area. According to WCDA, there were 14 people (mainly part-time) who worked on business support for WCDA. Two full-time equivalent staff ran the start-up programme.

In addition staff at Activ8 Solutions Ltd, the Business Link supplier in Cumbria, will have provided support to businesses in Copeland. The Business Link employed around 50 staff, and approximately eight of these will be attributable to the Copeland area.

Chocolate: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward measures to ensure that all chocolate manufacturers adopt minimum standards for transparency, independent inspections, fairer pricing and child welfare in their cocoa supply chains; and if he will make a statement. [162605]

Mr. Thomas: In its contacts with the industry the Government will encourage chocolate manufacturers to respond voluntarily to the growing public concern about sourcing and standards in their supply chains. The actions of consumers will also help shape manufacturers' decisions in this regard.

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs has regular stakeholder meetings with representatives of the food sector, including the confectionery industry.

Departmental NDPBs

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; who the chairman is of each; and to what salary, including bonuses and expenses, each chairman is entitled. [163614]

Mr. Thomas: Details of the budgets, remits and chairmen's salaries of the Department's non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) are published in the Public Bodies Directory 2007 and relate to the position as at 31 March 2007. The Report can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/about/strategy-objectives/annual-spending/page40339.html

Information on Chairmen's bonuses should be contained in each NDPB's annual report and accounts, which are normally available on the body's website. Alterations to the Department's public bodies announced during the machinery of Government changes in June 2007 are as follows:

From Cabinet Office to the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR)

Executive NDPB

Local Better Regulation Office

Advisory NDPB

Better Regulation Commission

From BERR to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills

Executive NDPB

British Hallmarking Council

Design Council

Research Councils

Technology Strategy Board

Advisory NDPB

Council for Science and Technology

Tribunal NDPBs

Copyright Tribunal

Agencies

NWML

UK Intellectual Property Office

Departments: Disabled Access

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 691W, which buildings occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not part of the HQ estate and which buildings not part of the HQ estate (i) are and (ii) are not fully accessible to disabled people. [163915]

Mr. Thomas: Buildings occupied by my Department and which are part of the BERR HQ estate are as follows:

Building	*Location*
1 Victoria Street	London
Kingsgate house	London
Westfield House	London
St. Mary's House	Sheffield
Atholl House	Aberdeen
Tay House	Glasgow
Amberley House	Gloucester
Newtown House	Nottingham

All buildings occupied by my Department's executive agencies (Companies House and The Insolvency Service) and which are not part of the BERR HQ estate are shown in the following tables. All are fully accessible to disabled people.

Companies House	*Location*
Crown Way	Cardiff
The Access Building	Nantgarw

Insolvency Service	*Location*
21 Bloomsbury Street	London
83 Hagley Road	Birmingham
Ladywood House	Birmingham
Newfield House	Blackpool
Richmond House	Bournemouth
69/70 Middle Pavement	Brighton
100 Victoria Street	Bristol
Abbeygate House	Cambridge
Marlowe House	Canterbury
Companies House	Cardiff
Prince Regent House	Chatham
Windsor House	Chester
Sunley House	Croydon
Ladywell House	Edinburgh
Senate Court	Exeter
Southgate House	Gloucester
Anchor House	Hull
St. Clare House	Ipswich
1 City Walk	Leeds
Wellington House	Leicester
Cunard Building	Liverpool
Boulton House	Manchester
City Tower	Manchester
Melbourne House	Newcastle
Copthall House	Newcastle Under Lyme
Sol House	Northampton
Emmanuel House	Norwich
The Frontage	Nottingham
Cobourg House	Plymouth
Apex Plaza	Reading
Trident House	St. Albans
City Plaza	Sheffield
Waterside House	Southampton
Central House	Southend
St. Marks House	Stockton
Sun Alliance House	Swansea
Exchange House	Watford

Entertainments: Tickets

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on implementing the recommendations of the Office of Fair Trading on *(a)* the improvement of information for consumers in relation to the total cost of buying event entertainment tickets and *(b)* the rules governing event entertainment advertising; and if he will make a statement. [163090]

Mr. Thomas: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has taken forward the recommendations in its 2005 report on "ticket agents in the UK". For example, to work with local authority trading standards services to ensure ticket sellers comply with relevant consumer protection legislation, to consider enforcement action where necessary and to work with a trade association to produce model contract terms.

On advertising, the OFT recommended that the Committee of Advertising Practice should amend its guidance so all non broadcast event advertising is required to include the face value of the ticket, while indicating that additional fees may apply and could vary depending on the sales channel and ticket seller

used. The Advertising Standards Authority acted on OFT's recommendation and amended its guidance in April 2005 but did not require advertisers to include the face value of tickets in adverts. The OFT is continuing to work with the ASA, in relation to reforming the Committee of Advertising Practice's code in line with the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive and its UK implementation.

The OFT will monitor the effects of the new legislation and changes to the ASA code before considering whether further action is needed.

Imports: Renewable Energy

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value was of renewable energy generating equipment imported into the UK in the last five years; and what the value of such equipment manufactured in the UK was over the same period. [164040]

Malcolm Wicks: The renewable energy generation market was worth of the order of £800 million in 2006 and is set to grow in future years; this figure covers more than just equipment.

The Office for National Statistics publishes detailed breakdowns of data on trade in and manufacturer sales of generation equipment in their annual publication "PRA31100 Product Sales and Trade: Electric Motors, Generators and Transformers"; these figures do not distinguish between generating equipment used for renewable energy and that used for other purposes. The data can be accessed from:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=8101

Infosec

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many meetings of the Infosec forum on nuclear security information have been held in the last 12 months; which organisations attend the forum; whether the funding comes from the budget of the Office for Civil Nuclear Security; and if he will publish the minutes of each meeting. [163898]

Malcolm Wicks: The Infosec forum is a medium for information security specialists in the civil nuclear industry to share best practice. The Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) facilitates the forum. In addition to OCNS, the attendees are UKAEA, Sellafield Ltd, Springfield Fuels Ltd, British Energy, Magnox North, Magnox South, BNFL, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the Civil Nuclear Constabulary, Urenco, Nexia Solutions, Project Services and HSE's Nuclear Directorate. Two meetings of the forum have taken place in 2007. Participants, including OCNS, finance the forum on a rotational basis.

Although no formal minutes of the forum are taken, specific areas on which work has taken place this year include mobile computing and the introduction of the 'protect' sub-security marking.

Manufacturing Industries: Automation

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on promoting the automation of British manufacturing; and what incentives are available for those companies who wish to automate. [163874]

Mr. Timms: Support and encouragement for the development of advanced manufacturing techniques is a key element of Government policy to promote a high value modern manufacturing sector. The Technology Strategy Board supports innovation and collaborative research and development into a wide range of leading edge technologies including robotics and automation.

The most recent competition under the technology programme announced on 8 November by John Denham, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, seeks proposals to develop new high value manufacturing techniques to secure the nation's future manufacturing base with research on the next generation of production techniques

Government also provide a range of support through the Businesslink network and the Manufacturing Advisory Service to help companies in all sectors to improve their performance.

Overseas Trade: Pakistan

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many UK registered businesses trade *(a)* with Pakistan and *(b)* in Pakistan. [163042]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Total figure of those traders on the UK VAT register who have declared trade in goods with Pakistan in 2006 is 6,168. No data is available for businesses in the services sector.

(b) No official statistics are maintained on UK registered businesses in Pakistan. It is estimated that some 100 UK companies operate within Pakistan.

Radioactive Waste Management

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will publish an update on the review of security arrangements for nuclear waste storage being undertaken by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. [163857]

Malcolm Wicks: Following the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management's 2006 recommendations, the NDA is currently in the process of carrying out a review of higher activity waste storage on behalf of Government. In drawing up the review, NDA has extended the scope beyond the narrowest definition of 'durability of stores' in order to address the concerns expressed on storage of non-immobilised wastes in various legacy facilities. The NDA will not include a detailed assessment of the security arrangements for waste storage facilities because this is the responsibility of the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) (part of the Nuclear Directorate of the HSE), the Government regulator for security in the civil nuclear industry.

OCNS ensures that all nuclear wastes on licensed nuclear sites or in transit, are subject to a level of security commensurate with their category and activity in accordance with the demanding requirements of the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 (NISR 03). Security arrangements are kept under constant review by OCNS who liaise with NDA and site licensees to ensure compliance with NISR 03.

Small Businesses: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many new small businesses have been established within Copeland in the last five years; and how many received support and advice through *(a)* Business Link and *(b)* other agencies. [163043]

Mr. Timms: Value added tax (VAT) registrations and de-registrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business start-ups and closures. BERR data on the number of VAT registrations, and the start of year stock of VAT registered businesses in Copeland local authority from 2001 to 2005 are shown in the following table. Data for 2006 will be published 14 November 2007.

VAT registrations and start of year VAT stock in Copeland local authority

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Registrations	80	110	190	110	110	N/A
Stock	1,510	1,495	1,515	1,610	1,625	1,640

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2005, BERR, available from http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat

Although the number of registrations in Copeland local authority has fluctuated, the start of year stock has risen by 9 per cent. between the start of 2001 and the start of 2006.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (41 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of business start up grants made to new businesses in Copeland was in the last five financial years. [163045]

Mr. Timms: The only grants used to provide start up support were delivered via West Cumbria Development Agency (WCDA). WCDA have provided business start up support since April 2003 to November 2007.

WCDA state that £1,000 was given to each company as a grant. 94 start-up businesses were provided with a grant over this period, and £94,000 was given in total as a grant. In addition to this, training and assistance was given via WCDA staff and consultants which is estimated at £2,500 per start up company i.e. an additional £235,000 of support was given to SMEs in Copeland, making £329,000 of support in total.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of new job opportunities that have been created by the small business sector in Copeland in the last five years. [163047]

Malcolm Wicks: Neither the Northwest Regional Development Agency nor the West Cumbria Development Agency holds this information.

Toys and Games: Safety

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to strengthen the regulation of the safety of toys; and what discussions he has had on the subject with the European Commission. [163642]

Mr. Thomas: At present we believe that the safety level set out in the Toys Directive and therefore the UK Toy Safety Regulations is appropriate, and that our market surveillance system is robust.

However, it is appropriate and important that we keep the situation under review. In light of this BERR officials have discussed toy safety with DG Enterprise officials on September 18 and at a special meeting of the General Product Safety Committee on 3 October.

My Department also held a Toy Safety Summit with interested parties held 29 October where the revision of the Toy Safety Directive and the Commission's toy safety stock-taking exercise were discussed.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Armed Forces

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK personnel are working with operational mentoring and liaison teams in Afghanistan. [163074]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given in another place by my noble Friend, Lord Drayson on 15 October 2007, House of Lords, *Official Report*, column WA33.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK forces personnel there are on operational duty in each foreign country; and if he will make a statement. [163395]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table provides the number of personnel deployed on operations by operation and location at 28 October 2007.

The number of personnel deployed on operational duty is constantly under review in order to ensure operational objectives are sustainable.

Number of personnel deployed by operation and location[1]

Operation	Number
Total	14,540
of which:	
Telic	6,390
of which:	
Iraq	4,970

Number of personnel deployed by operation and location[1]

Operation	*Number*
Qatar	420
Oman	270
Kuwait	140
Bahrain	60
At Sea	540
Herrick	7,640
of which:	
Afghanistan	7,640
Oculus	170
of which:	
Kosovo	140
Bosnia	20
UN	320
of which:	
Cyprus	290

[1] Countries with 10 or more personnel are shown separately.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what system is used to ensure resupply of the combat 95 clothing system and other individual equipment in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq. [162569]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The system, used in both operational theatres, for the re-supply of clothing and individual equipment is the GLOBAL Inventory Management System. When stock levels in theatre cannot meet demand GLOBAL is used to submit a replenishment demand back to the UK. Stock is then issued to theatre to satisfy the requirement.

Iraq: Foreign Workers

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many third country nationals of each nationality have been employed by his Department in Iraq in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [162564]

Des Browne: Available records indicate that UK military forces in Iraq have employed directly some 148 individuals not of UK or Iraqi nationality over this period. Details are set out in the table, broken down by the year in which each was recruited. However, it is possible that this information is not complete, especially for the initial stages of the deployment into Iraq, when some staff were recruited at short notice to meet urgent operational requirements, and data capture for these individuals may be incomplete.

Nationality/ Ethnicity	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
Kuwaiti	1	—	—	—	—	1
Arabian	1	—	—	—	1	2
Bengali	—	1	—	—	—	1
Lebanese	—	1	—	2	4	7
Somali	—	1	—	2	5	8
USA	—	2	3	1	1	7
Indian	—	—	—	8	9	17
Pakistani	—	—	—	4	30	34
Egyptian	—	—	—	10	42	52
Afghan	—	—	—	1	—	1
Jordanian	—	—	—	2	10	12
Canadian	—	—	—	—	1	1
New Zealand	—	—	—	—	1	1
Palestinian	—	—	—	—	4	4
Total	2	5	3	30	108	148

These figures do not include Commonwealth soldiers serving with the UK armed forces, UK-based civilian personnel, or contractor staff supporting the UK armed forces.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft there were in the RAF in 1997, broken down by aircraft type on the same basis as the answer provided on military aircraft on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 509W. [162799]

Des Browne: The numbers of aircraft that were planned to be in service with the RAF service on 31 March 1997 are contained in the following table:

Aircraft type	*Fleet numbers*
Tornado GR	142
Tornado F3	111
Harrier	70
Nimrod	29
Tristar	9
VC10	[1]26
Sentry	7
Hercules	[2]56
Islander	2
BAe 146	3
BAe 125	[3]8
Sea King	25
Dominie	10
Hawk	100
Tucano	73
Vigilant	53
Jaguar	54
Bulldog	116
Canberra	9
Jetstream	10
Junus	2
Valiant	4
Viking	82
Chinook	34
Puma	37
Sea King	25
Gazelle	21
Wessex	50

[1] Actual numbers were 27.
[2] Actual numbers were 55.
[3] Actual numbers were six. The planned figure does not reflect the retirement of two BAe 125 aircraft.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the in-year budget was for helicopter procurement in *(a)* 1996-97, *(b)* 1997-98, *(c)* 1999-2000 and *(d)* 2001-02. [162521]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Budget figures for the early years are no longer held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The in-year budget for all helicopter procurement projects for financial year 2001-02 is £842 million. This figure excludes funding for emergent urgent requirements and some commodity items bought in support of these projects.

Military Equipment: Israel

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value was of UK military-related imports from Israel in each of the last five years. [163049]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The total value of UK imports of defence equipment from Israel, for the last five years where data are available, are given in the following table.

Identified UK imports of defence equipment

	£ million[1]
2002	5
2003	42
2004	8
2005	1
2006	2

[1] Rounded to nearest £ million at current prices

Data are based on HM Revenue and Customs information relating to defence equipment reported to UK Customs. Defence equipment is identified by an agreed set of tariff codes intended to capture the movement of military equipment.

Military Equipment: Libya

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what types of armaments and military equipment have been exported to Libya from the United Kingdom in each of the last three years; and how much was paid for such material. [164990]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The Government publish detailed information on export licences issued, including the overall value and number of export licences approved for Libya and a summary of the items covered by these licences, in its Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls. This information is available for licences issued only and not for equipment actually exported.

The Government's Annual Reports, published since 1997, are available from the Libraries of the House and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029395474

The Government have published quarterly reports on Strategic Export Controls since January 2004 and these are also available from this website.

Trident Missiles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his timetable is for reducing the number of Trident warheads to below 160. [164136]

Des Browne: The December 2006 White Paper: The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent (Cm 6994) announced a further reduction in our holdings of operationally available nuclear warheads, in line with the UK's commitment to maintain only the minimum necessary deterrent. I can confirm that we have now reduced the number of operationally available warheads from fewer than 200 to fewer than 160.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House if she will break down the figures referred to in the answer of 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 221W, on Departments: official hospitality, giving the amount spent on each function at which hospitality expenses were incurred. [162195]

Helen Goodman: Following a Machinery of Government change, detailed information on expenditure incurred in the 2006-07 financial year is only available at disproportionate cost.

Parliamentary Year

Mr. Pope: To ask the Leader of the House what the names and local authorities are of the schools whose holiday dates were analysed in her preparation of the proposed House of Commons calendar of sittings for 2007-08. [162336]

Helen Goodman: A sample of local education authority calendars from all the nations were considered in preparing the House of Commons calendar.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Drugs: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crack houses in Hertfordshire have been closed in the last five years. [163415]

Mr. Coaker: Data are provided on a voluntary basis by Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. According to the CDRP voluntary survey, 10 crack house closures have been issued to date in Hertfordshire, four in 2005-06 and six so far in 2006-07.

Parenting Contracts

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* acceptable behaviour orders and *(b)* parenting orders were issued in (i) Peterborough and (ii) Cambridgeshire in each year since their introduction; and if she will make a statement. [163178]

Mr. Coaker: Data on acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) are not collected by the Home Office as they are voluntary agreements and therefore not suitable for central data collection. However, surveys of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) indicate that over 25,000 ABCs have been made since October 2003. The Home Office recently issued updated and comprehensive guidance for practitioners on the use of ABCs.

Parenting orders were piloted between 30 September 1998 and 31 March 2000 but data showing the breakdown by area are not available for that period. Parenting orders were commenced in England and Wales in June 2000. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has collected the number of parenting orders by Youth Offending Team ("YOT") area since April 2000, as reported to it by YOTs including education-related orders where the YOT has been involved.

Since September 2004, the Department for Children, Schools and Families has collected data on the number of parenting orders in England related to non-attendance of children at school and exclusion from school at local authority level.

The numbers of parenting orders relating to crime or antisocial behaviour from April 2000 until March 2007 and those related to non-attendance of children at school until March 2004 reported to the YJB by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough YOTs are shown in table A: The number of parenting orders made following truancy prosecution between 1 September 2004 and 13 April 2007 is shown in table B:

Table A: Parenting orders related to youth offending or antisocial behaviour and non-attendance reported by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough YOT

	Cambridgeshire YOT		*Peterborough YOT*		*Total*
	Youth offending or antisocial behaviour	*Non-attendance where YOT involved*	*Youth offending or antisocial behaviour*	*Non-attendance where YOT involved*	
2000-01	0	0	9	0	9
2001-02	1	0	21	0	22
2002-03	4	0	13	0	17
2003-04	1	0	11	0	12
2004-05	2	[1]	23	[1]	25
2005-06	13	[1]	22	[1]	35
2006-07	8	[1]	23	[1]	31

[1] See table B

Table B: Parenting orders made following truancy prosecution between one September 2004 and 13 April 2007

School year	*Parenting orders for truancy*
2004-05	2
2005-06	0
2006-07	0

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many permits were granted in each of the last five years under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers scheme; [163619]

(2) how many permits were granted under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers scheme in each of the last five years. [163621]

Mr. Byrne: The Seasonal Agricultural Workers scheme has been operational since 1 January 2004. The number of work cards issued since that date is provided in the following table.

	Number of work cards issued
2004	20,420
2005	16,115
2006	15,980
To 30 September 2007	15,935
Total	68,450

Security Guards: Licensing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the backlog for determining licence applications by the Security Industry Authority is, broken down by type of licence. [162580]

Mr. Coaker: The SIA do not have any backlogs in determining licence applications.

As at 12 November, there were 15,089 applications at various processing stages. This includes applications that cannot be processed until additional information is received. The SIA does not record applications by type of licence until processing is complete and a decision has been taken.

The postal strikes in October caused some delays in the receipt, return and processing of applications. All licences issued during the strike should now have been received by the applicants. Processing times for applications sent to the SIA during the strike may continue to be affected, and delays of one or two weeks may be experienced.

Terrorism

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of likely *(a)* insured and *(b)* uninsured costs to (i) London and (ii) any other UK cities of a terrorist attack similar to that which took place in New York on 11 September 2001. [164830]

Mr. McNulty: An economic impact assessment alongside social and other impacts to the UK of a range of possible terrorist and non-terrorist events forms part of the UK resilience planning process. This assessment does not distinguish between insured and uninsured costs.

Terrorism: Detainees

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been detained without charge on suspicion of terrorist offences for 28 days; and how many of these were *(a)* charged and *(b)* released without charge. [164065]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* The maximum period of detention pre-charge was extended to 28 days with effect from 25 July 2006. Statistics compiled from police records show that to date six people have been held for 27 to 28 days. Of these, three individuals were charged and three were released without charge.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any suspects detained without charge on suspicion of terrorist offences for 28 days and then released without charge have been subsequently re-arrested and charged with a terrorist offence. [164066]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* The maximum period of detention pre-charge was extended to 28 days with effect from 25 July 2006. Statistics compiled from police records show that to date six people have been held for 27 to 28 days. Of these three individuals were released without charge. We do not keep figures on re-arrests.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

BAE Systems

Roger Berry: To ask the Solicitor-General whether investigators from the *(a)* US Department of Justice and *(b)* other US officials have held meetings with (i) her Department and (ii) staff from the Serious Fraud Office with regard to allegations of misconduct involving BAE Systems in relation to Saudi Arabia. [163519]

The Solicitor-General: Since the decision to discontinue the investigation into BAe Systems plc in relation to Saudi Arabia on 14 December 2006 there has been one meeting between staff from the Serious Fraud Office and officials from the US Department of Justice and other officials.

Mohammed Salih

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Solicitor-General what steps she is taking in relation to Mohammed Salih from Iraq, wanted in the UK in connection with the killing of Banaz Mahmood; and if she will make a statement. [162960]

The Solicitor-General: It would be inappropriate to comment on specific cases where extradition proceedings may or may not be pending. In general, extradition arrangements do exist between the UK and Iraq and the UK is a party to an extradition treaty with Iraq.

Young Offenders: Fines

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Solicitor-General what the policy of the Crown Prosecution Service is on financial penalties for juvenile offenders where a parent of the offender was the victim of the offence. [164403]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service has no specific policy on financial penalties for youth offenders. The imposition of a fine is a matter for the court that sentences the youth offender.

The prosecutors role in the sentencing process is detailed in the 'Attorney-General's Guidelines on the Acceptance of Pleas and the Prosecutors Role in Sentencing'. These guidelines state that during sentencing the prosecutor must represent the public interest as well as the specific interests of victims. Prosecutors must be ready to assist the court by placing before it relevant information concerning the impact of the offending on the victim and the community, as well as relevant statutory provisions, sentencing guidelines and case law. In carrying out their function, prosecutors must also consider whether to apply for compensation for the victim, or another suitable ancillary order.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if she will make a statement. [164166]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1158W.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what efficiency savings projects her Department put in place under the Spending Review 2004 targets; on what date each was initiated; how much each was expected to contribute to the target; how much was saved by each; and if she will make a statement. [164148]

Mr. Dhanda: The details of the workstreams within our efficiency programme, including how much each was predicted to contribute towards the SR04 target are contained within the efficiency technical note published in December 2005 by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Department regularly publishes details on the progress made on meeting its efficiency target, including a breakdown of efficiency savings made in each workstream, in both its annual report and autumn performance report.

Homelessness

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 105W, on homelessness, when she expects to publish the research commissioned from Herriot Watt University to evaluate the range of homelessness prevention initiatives in case study local authorities. [163524]

Mr. Iain Wright: The summary of the research findings and the good practice guide based on the research were both published in June 2006.

The final report will be published shortly.

Housing: Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress is being made on the self-financing Housing Revenue Account pilot scheme; and if she will make a statement. [162016]

Mr. Iain Wright: Modelling work by a group of local authorities and arms length management organisations has identified potentially significant benefits from allowing some local authorities to leave the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system. This is however a complex matter and any changes must not disadvantage those councils who depend on the redistributive system, to subsidise their housing services. The Housing Green Paper, 'Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable', published in July, confirmed that we would set out our conclusions and next steps in the autumn.

Housing: Low Incomes

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued on the definition of affordable housing to be used by planning authorities when considering planning applications for mixed housing. [164900]

Mr. Iain Wright: A new definition of affordable housing appears in Planning Policy Statement 3—Housing which was published in November 2006. The definition states that:

"Affordable housing includes social rented and intermediate housing, provided to specified eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Affordable housing should:

Meet the needs of eligible households including availability at a cost low enough for them to afford, determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices.

Include provision for the home to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or, if these restrictions are lifted, for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative housing provision."

Local planning authorities are required to use this definition when preparing plan policies and determining planning applications for housing.

Further guidance is included in the accompanying document "Delivering Affordable Housing". It is for local planning authorities to use these documents to inform decisions on individual cases with reference to local needs.

Local Government: Standards

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the description is of each national indicator for which a description is available. [162539]

John Healey: The 198 national indicators for local authorities and local authority partnerships were announced as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review. In reducing the number of indicators to from around 1,200 to 198 the Government have delivered on the first part of its commitment to streamline the local performance framework.

To be effective indicators need to be clearly defined in a way that is meaningful on the ground. On 8 November we published a consultation seeking feedback on the detailed definitions on the 198 indicators.

The consultation will run until 21 December and seeks views from local authorities and their partners on the methodology, frequency of reporting and data source of each individual indicator. The consultation document contains full descriptions of the national indicators and is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/indicatorsdefinitions

Maps: Licensing

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many licences were granted under section 107 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for people to use Ordnance Survey maps in each of the last five years. [164138]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ordnance Survey has granted no licences specifically under section 107 of the Copyright and Design and Patents Act 1988 in any of the last five years.

Non-domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many small businesses in Copeland have applied for small business rate relief over the last five financial years. [163004]

John Healey: The information requested is not available. However, as at 31 December 2006, there were 504 business in Copeland that were in receipt of small business rate relief.

Rented Housing: Rents

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact of her policy of rent restructuring. [164195]

Mr. Iain Wright: No formal assessment of the policy has been made since the recommendations of the three-year review undertaken in 2004, which made three recommendations:

higher bedroom weights for three- and four-bed properties, and new, higher weightings for properties with five and six (or more) bedrooms;

from April 2005, using the same formula for restructuring local authority rents as that which is currently used for restructuring RSL rents, and adopting the RPI as the inflation measure used in calculating local authority rent increases.

local authorities should ignore the downward limit of RPI+ 0.5 per cent. minus £2 per week on rent changes, in order to achieve restructuring on all properties for which rents need to fall by 2011-12. The Housing Corporation should also encourage associations to do the same, where their finances permit.

After further consultation with stakeholders, these recommendations were implemented in full from 1 April 2006.

The Government wish to see the policy implemented for a period of time before considering a formal assessment.

HEALTH

Abortion

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of English conceptions which ended in terminations in each of the last five years. [162974]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Annual statistics on abortions as a percentage of all conceptions (England and Wales) since 2001

	Conceptions—all ages	
	Total (thousand)	Percentage ending in abortion
2001	763.7	23.2
2002	787.0	22.5
2003	806.8	22.5
2004	826.8	22.4
2005	837.4	22.3

Alcoholic Drinks: Rehabilitation

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding was available for alcohol rehabilitation services in each of the last five years, broken down by strategic health authority. [163378]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not held centrally.

Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust: Doctors

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* accident and emergency doctors were employed by Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust in each of the last 10 years. [162259]

Ann Keen: The following table shows all medical and dental staff working within Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals National Health Service Trust[1] and of those staff, those working in the accident and emergency specialty by year

Number (headcount)

As at 30 September each year	All medical and dental staff	Of which: Accident and emergency
1997	407	40
1998	403	53
2000	405	39
2001	442	43
2002	443	37
2003	471	37
2004	559	46
2005	588	44
2006	599	51

[1] 1997 and 1998 show Wellhouse NHS Trust and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust. These organisations merged in April 1999 to form Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust.

Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust: Nurses

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses and *(b)* accident and emergency nurses were employed by Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust in each of the last 10 years. [162260]

Ann Keen: The information is not held in the format requested. Although numbers of nursing and midwifery staff are recorded, the numbers of those working within accident and emergency cannot be separately identified.

The following table lists the number of qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff employed by Barnet and Chase Farm National Health Service Trust.

Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff[1]

As at 30 September each year	Number (headcount)
1997	1,560
1998	1,533
2000	1,440
2001	1,570
2002	1,711
2003	1,740
2004	1,731
2005	1,715
2006	1,692

[1] More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total work force figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures. This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what extra funding he plans to make available to primary care trusts to allow them to extend breast cancer screening to women between the ages of 47 and 73 years. [163282]

Ann Keen: In September, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced proposals for cancer services including extending the breast cancer screening age range to women aged between 47 and 73.

We aim to publish the Cancer Reform Strategy, which will set out the future direction of cancer services in England, by the end of the year. Details on the implementation of the proposals already announced will be issued in due course.

Funding for the extension of the breast screening programme has been included in the comprehensive spending review settlement, and will be allocated to and managed by NHS Cancer Screening Programmes on behalf of primary care trusts.

Broomfield Hospital: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to receive Treasury approval for the Broomfield hospital private finance initiative scheme; and if he will make a statement. [163632]

Mr. Bradshaw: The full business case for the £147 million Broomfield hospital private finance initiative scheme for Mid Essex Hospitals Services NHS Trust was approved by the Department and HM Treasury on 14 November. The scheme can now proceed to financial close.

Cancer: Consultants

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cancer specialists were recruited in each year since 2000; how many full time equivalent cancer specialists there were in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [163285]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* Figures on recruitment of cancer consultants are not collected centrally but the following table shows the increase in consultants numbers over the previous year.

Number of cancer consultants[1] recruited at September each year (by headcount)

	Number
2000	166
2001	193
2002	192
2003	256
2004	212
2005	212
2006	118

The following table shows the number of full-time equivalent cancer consultants at September each year.

Number of cancer consultants[1] at September each year (by full-time equivalent)

	Number
2000	3,183
2001	3,331
2002	3,569
2003	3,787
2004	4,005
2005	4,246
2006	4,389

[1] The six main cancer specialists consist of clinical oncology, medical oncology, palliative medicine, haematology, histopathology and clinical radiology.

Source:
Information Centre, Medical and Dental Workforce Census

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts his Department has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts are for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163814]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on contracts with external consultants in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

A new system will be introduced in April 2008 called SHOWA, which will be able to gather such information for the Department.

Departmental Managers

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the criteria are for determining the bonus payable to the Director General of the Commercial Directorate of his Department. [162384]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The criteria for determining performance pay and bonuses for senior civil servants will be set out in the Department's pay strategy. The pay strategy is prepared following the publication of the Review Body on Senior Salaries (SSRB), whose terms of reference include the remuneration of senior civil servants, and the Government's response to it. The SSRB is usually published in February each year. The Director General of the Commercial Directorate will become eligible to be considered for a bonus for the first time in April 2008 under criteria set in the 2008 pay strategy.

Digoxin

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recommendations have been made by his Department on *(a)* the use of digoxin in the treatment of heart conditions and *(b)* the monitoring of patients for whom it is prescribed. [162872]

Ann Keen: Digoxin is most often used in the treatment of heart failure or atrial fibrillation. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued guidelines on Chronic Heart Failure

(CG5, July 2003) and the Management of Atrial Fibrillation (CG36, June 2006) which included advice on the use and monitoring of this medicine.

Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of table 18, referred to in his Department's evidence to the review body on doctors' and dentists' remuneration. [163388]

Ann Keen: The Health Department's written evidence to the review body on doctors' and dentists' remuneration has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_080117

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will break down table 2.3 on page 16 of his Department's evidence to the review body on doctors' and dentists' remuneration by expenditure on each type of pressure in each financial year by programme; and how the 3 per cent. efficiency savings were calculated. [163376]

Mr. Bradshaw: Revenue allocations are made directly to primary care trusts (PCTs), as it is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding to commission services to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations. Table 2.3 in the Department's evidence to the review body on doctors' and dentists' remuneration provides a central estimate of national health service cost pressures. The cost of individual programmes will depend on local decisions on the implementation of NHS priorities.

The Department needs to ensure that the best value is secured for the investment in the NHS. The requirement to make 3 per cent. year on year efficiency savings enables the Government to build on the Spending Review 2004 efficiency programme, and was considered to be achievable based on the value for money delivery plans that all Departments were required to submit as part of the current Comprehensive Spending Review.

Drugs: Eastern Region

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of patients treated on the NHS for drug addiction in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk emerged free of addiction after treatment in each of the last three years. [162589]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not held centrally.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of amending the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Charging Regulations 1989 to extend the period of absence disregarded when establishing residence from less than three months in the 12 months immediately preceding treatment to less than six months in the 12 months immediately preceding treatment. [163166]

Dawn Primarolo: We have not made an estimate of the cost of amending the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989 in the way described.

Hearing Aids: Waiting Lists

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for hearing aid assessments in *(a)* Mid Essex and *(b)* England in the last period for which figures are available. [163631]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The average median waiting time for a diagnostic audiology assessment, including hearing assessment, is one week for the Mid Essex Primary Care NHS Trust. The average for England is 16 weeks.

Influenza: Eastern Region

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of pensioners in Suffolk received a free influenza vaccination in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk in each of the last five years. [162592]

Dawn Primarolo: This information has been placed in the Library.

Influenza: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the level of take-up by pensioners in London of influenza vaccinations in each of the last 12 years. [162536]

Dawn Primarolo: Flu vaccine uptake data were collected for the first time on those aged 65 and over from 2000. The percentage of those aged 65 and over who received a flu vaccine in each London primary care trust from 2000 is available in the Library.

Mentally Ill: Death

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in respect of what percentage of deaths occurring in mental health institutions inquests were held in the last five years. [163930]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* This information is not collected by the Department.

Deaths of patients who were detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 should be referred to Her Majesty's Coroner (HMC). HMC will hold an inquest where the medical cause of death remains in doubt after a post-mortem examination, or if the cause of death is violent or unnatural or where a death has occurred in such a place as to require an inquest under section 8 (1) of the Coroner's Act 1988.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to mental health trusts on *(a)* procedures to be followed and *(b)* inquiries to be made following deaths of patients held under mental health legislation. [163931]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* The Department issued guidance in 1994 Health Service Guidance (94) 27: "Guidance on the discharge of mentally disordered people and their continued care in the community" which details action to be taken following mental health in-patient deaths. This was followed by further guidance in 2005, "Independent investigation of adverse events in mental health services", which updated part of the 1994 guidance.

This guidance requires strategic health authorities to commission independent investigations. This involves appointing the investigation team, agreeing terms of reference, publishing and distributing the results and agreeing a local action plan following a homicide committed by a person in touch with mental health services.

The National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness (NCISH) collects data on suicide and sudden unexpected deaths of in-patients and homicides committed by persons in touch with mental health services. NCISH is funded by the National Patient Safety Agency and published its latest report, "Avoidable Deaths", in December 2006. This reviews homicides in England and Wales between April 1999 and December 2003 and suicides from April 2000 to December 2004.

The Mental Health Act Commission (MHAC) collects data on all detained patient deaths and publishes data on those from non-natural causes in its biennial report. MHAC, under its general remit to keep under review the operation of the Mental Health Act 1983, asks providers to notify it of all deaths of detained patients within three working days.

MHAC reviews the deaths of patients who have died from non-natural causes to establish whether good practice, as defined in the Mental Health Act 1983 Code of Practice, has been followed and whether lessons for future practice and policy need to be learned. This review may include sending a Commissioner to the inquest which considers the circumstances of the death or arranging a visit to the hospital to consider the issues arising.

Methyl Methacrylate: Health Hazards

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of the use of methyl methacrylate in nail bars on health. [161899]

Dawn Primarolo: There has been no assessment of the effects of the use of methyl methacrylate in nail bars on health.

Midwives: Training

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average annual cost to public funds of training a student midwife was in the latest period for which figures are available. [162484]

Ann Keen: The national benchmark price for pre-registration training for midwifery students in the financial year 2007-08 is £7,838 outside London, £8,230 in outer London and £8,465 for inner London.

In addition to tuition costs, midwifery trainees are entitled to either a bursary or salary support funding. The average bursary paid for midwifery students in 2006-07 was £6,314.

Students may be entitled to other payments such as allowances for dependant children and the cost of national health service employees seconded on to midwifery training programmes will include a proportion of their salary costs.

NHS Plus

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on recent developments in NHS Plus services for private sector employers. [162291]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department is currently establishing five demonstration sites in England for innovative delivery of health and work services to private employers, in particular focusing on small and medium-sized businesses, by providing a £10 million capital fund. A further £10 million capital fund is available for an additional tranche of demonstration sites to enrich the developing good practice in this area. This will both bring benefits to the private sector in the areas in which the demonstration sites are located, and establish good practice from which others can learn.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which trusts are part of his Department's turnaround programme for organisations in particular financial difficulties; and how much funding has been allocated to pay for turnaround teams in 2007-08. [163366]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is no central turnaround programme in 2007-08. The Department, in conjunction with strategic health authorities, continues to apply best practice learnt from the turnaround programme in recent years and applies this through the usual performance management functions. No central funding has been set aside to pay for turnaround teams.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the multi-professional education and training levy allocated to strategic health authorities in 2006-07 was not spent on workforce development in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* as a percentage of overall strategic health authority budgets, broken down by strategic health authority. [163367]

Ann Keen: The amounts of the multi-professional education and training (MPET) levy allocated to strategic health authorities (SHAs) in 2006-07 that was not spent on workforce development in cash terms and as a percentage of overall strategic health authority budgets, broken down by strategic health authority, are shown in the following table.

SHAs	*MPET Budget not spent on workforce in cash terms (£000)*	*MPET Budget not spent on workforce as a percentage of overall SNA resource budget*
North East	9,904	3.4
North West	32,862	4.4

SHAs	MPET Budget not spent on workforce in cash terms (£000)	MPET Budget not spent on workforce as a percentage of overall SNA resource budget
Yorkshire and Humberside	43,587	7.0
East Midlands	21,602	5.3
West Midlands	46,259	8.7
East of England	32,137	6.8
London	74,717	6.3
South East Coast	27,154	8.1
South Central	33,099	8.5
South West	36,177	7.6
Total	357,496	6.5

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the NHS surplus in 2006-07 was accounted for by lower than expected expenditure on items classed as non-cash or capital; and how much of the surplus was used to cover pay costs. [163389]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department did not expect the national health service to plan or manage its expenditure on a separate near cash and non-cash basis in 2006-07. Instead, the NHS was expected to live within overall expenditure limits and at least achieve financial balance. The net surplus of £515 million recorded in the audited accounts for 2006-07 represents a revenue surplus only, and is reported after full account was taken by the NHS for pay costs.

NHS: Management Consultants

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each NHS trust spent on external financial consultants in the last five years. [163406]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held by the Department.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what change in the number of NHS staff directly employed in the NHS he expects to result from the decrease in the percentage of NHS revenue spending being spent on the pay of such staff in 2008-09, as set out in table 2.4 on page 24 of his Department's evidence to the review body on doctors' and dentists' remuneration. [163377]

Ann Keen: The percentage of national health service revenue spending spent on pay is forecast to increase in 2008-09. This is a national estimate and it is a proportion of the overall growing NHS revenue funding, therefore overall expenditure on NHS staff is expected to increase.

Revenue allocations are made to primary care trusts to provide them with funding to deliver local and national priorities. It is not possible to provide an estimate of the change in number of NHS staff employed, as workforce planning, and therefore setting the number of staff required to deliver services, is a matter for local NHS organisations to deal with. They are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community and will recruit the appropriate number of staff to meet those needs. The Department sees workforce planning as a priority and closely monitors strategic health authority local delivery plans to ensure they will deliver the activity required within the finance envelope. As part of that approach, the Department also expects SHAs to be satisfied that local workforce plans are sufficiently robust to deliver the planned activity.

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations he has included in the list of suppliers on the Framework for External Support in Commissioning. [164047]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following suppliers have been appointed to the Framework for procuring External Support for Commissioners:

Aetna Health Services (UK) Limited;
AXA PPP Healthcare Administration Services Limited;
BUPA Membership Commissioning Limited;
CHKS Ltd, trading as Partners In Commissioning;
Dr. Foster Limited, trading as Dr. Foster Intelligence;
Health Dialog Services Corporation;
Humana Europe, Ltd;
KPMG LLP;
McKesson Information Solutions UK Limited;
McKinsey and Company, Inc. United Kingdom;
Navigant Consulting, Inc;
Tribal Consulting Limited;
Unitedhealth Europe Limited; and
WG Consulting Healthcare Limited, trading as WG Consulting.

NHS: Vacancies

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what definition of a vacancy he uses in relation to the NHS workforce. [162483]

Ann Keen: The annual national health service vacancy survey collects information at the end of March on vacancies which trusts are finding hard to fill.

The Information Centre who publish the vacancy survey define a vacancy as

'one which has lasted three months or more and which employers are actively trying to fill as at 31 March.'

The emphasis is therefore on vacancies which trusts are finding hard to fill, rather than on normal staff turnover.

Pharmacy: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what dispensing pharmacies there are in Hampshire; and what volume of products each dispensed in each of the past five years. [162852]

Dawn Primarolo: A list of pharmacies under contract to Hampshire Primary Care Trust, Portsmouth City PCT and Southampton City PCT at the end of the 2006-07 financial year has been placed in the Library.

It is not appropriate to give the number of items dispensed by each pharmacist as these figures are commercially sensitive. The following table provides information on the monthly average number of items for each Primary Care Trust in Hampshire for each financial year.

	Average prescription items dispensed per month (thousand)			
Primary Care Trust	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*
Blackwater Valley and Hart	149	142	137	131
East Hampshire	183	172	166	158
Eastleigh and Test Valley South	146	138	132	122
Fareham and Gosport	195	184	176	168
Mid-Hampshire	120	115	113	108
New Forest	221	210	201	191
North Hampshire	182	154	156	150
Portsmouth City	189	185	184	179
Teaching				
Southampton City	222	209	214	211
Total	1,607	1,509	1,479	1,418

Primary Care Trusts: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was top-sliced from primary care trusts in 2006-07, broken down by trust; how much of these top-sliced funds have so far been paid back, broken down by trust; and by what date these funds will be fully paid back to primary care trusts. [163364]

Mr. Bradshaw: Figures showing the value of primary care trust top-slice, and the amount returned by strategic health authorities (SHAs) in 2006-07, have been placed in the Library.

It is for each SHA to manage both the timing and method for repaying contributions made by their PCTs within a reasonable period, not usually exceeding the three-year allocation cycle, and depending on overall affordability within the SHA economy. SHAs should consider the position of PCTs with the greatest health need first.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much is being top-sliced from primary care trusts in 2007-08, broken down by trust. [163365]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department made clear in the national health service operating framework for 2007-08 that strategic health authorities (SHAs) will not generally need to top-slice primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations to the same level as in 2006-07 because of the substantial improvement in the overall financial position of the NHS. However, for 2007-08 a number of PCTs have chosen to lodge resources with their SHA to be included within the SHA's strategic investment fund as a safeguard against any risk associated with the lower financial settlement over the period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

The data showing the value of PCT lodgements in their respective SHA's strategic investment fund have been placed in the Library.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of each sexually transmitted disease were diagnosed in the South Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust area in each of the last three years. [163399]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in genito-urinary clinics (GUM) is only available by strategic health authority (SHA). The total number of STIs diagnosed in the East of England SHA since 2004 to 2006, the latest date for which figures are available, which includes West Hertfordshire and North East Hertfordshire Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) area, is given in the following tables.

Infection	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Primary and secondary syphilis	88	82	80
Uncomplicated gonorrhoea	1,223	947	838
Anogenital herpes - first attack	1,518	1,580	1,731
Anogenital warts - first attack	6,588	6,796	6,729
Uncomplicated chlamydia	8,031	8,369	8,300

Source:
Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns

Number of new STIs and other STIs diagnosed in the East of England SHA (2004-2006)

	2004	*2005*	*2006*
Total number of new STI diagnoses[1]	29,878	29,858	30,242
Total number of other STI diagnoses[2]	18,018	19,865	20,980

[1] Includes those defined in table 1 and all others.
[2] Includes recurrent and follow-up presentations.
Notes:
1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed. For example, individuals may be diagnosed with several co-infections and each diagnosis will be counted separately.
3. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
Source:
Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns

In addition to diagnoses made in GUM clinics, the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) has been running since 2003. The number of people diagnosed with chlamydia within the programme in the East of England SHA broken down by individual PCTs are shown in the following table.

PCT	*2004-07*
Bedfordshire	192
Cambridgeshire	70
East and North Hertfordshire	22
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	78
Luton	222
Mid Essex	11

PCT	2004-07
Norfolk	377
North East Essex	7
Peterborough	33
South East Essex	529
South West Essex	43
Suffolk	574
West Essex	20
West Hertfordshire	18

Notes:
1. The data from the NCSP are for diagnoses made outside of GUM clinics only and include diagnoses made by the Boots pathfinder project.
2. The data available from the NCSP are the number of diagnoses made and not the number of patients diagnosed.
3. The data only include those aged 15-24, who have provided a postcode of residence.
4. The data are specific to the following years 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, since the NCSP follows the financial year.
Source:
The NCSP

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people between the ages of 16 and 18 years have been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease in the South Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust area in the last three years. [163400]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in genitourinary clinics (GUM) is only available by strategic health authority (SHA). The total number of STIs between the ages of 16 and 19 years of age diagnosed in the East of England SHA since 2004 to 2006, the latest date for which figures are available, which includes West Hertfordshire and North East Hertfordshire Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) area, is given in the table.

Infection	2004	2005	2006
Primary and secondary syphilis	6	6	2
Uncomplicated gonorrhoea	276	190	166
Anogenital herpes - first attack	213	228	279
Anogenital warts - first attack	1,189	1,183	1,308
Uncomplicated chlamydia	2,219	2,321	2,111

Notes:
1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed. For example, individuals may be diagnosed with several co-infections and each diagnosis will be counted separately.
3. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
4. Data are not collected for the age range 16-18.
Source:
Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns

In addition to diagnoses made in GUM clinics, the National Chlamydia Screening Programme has been running since 2003. The number of people diagnosed with chlamydia within the programme in the East of England SHA broken down by individual PCTs is shown in the following table.

Primary Care Trust	2004-2007
Bedfordshire	75
Cambridgeshire	30
East and North Hertfordshire	5
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	41
Luton	84
Mid Essex	[1]
Norfolk	143
Peterborough	17
South East Essex	214
South West Essex	18
Suffolk	284
West Essex	[1]
West Hertfordshire	5

[1] Cell size of 1 to 4 have been masked to protect deductive disclosure in accordance with ONS guidelines.
Notes:
1. The data from the NCSP are for diagnoses made outside of GUM clinics only and include diagnoses made by the Boots pathfinder project.
2. The data available from the NCSP are the number of diagnoses made and not the number of patients diagnosed.
3. The data only include those aged 16-18, who have provided a postcode of residence.
4. The data are specific to the following years 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, since the NCSP follows the financial year.
Source:
The National Chlamydia Screening Programme.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Foreign Workers

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many locally engaged staff are employed by his Department in Afghanistan. [164347]

Dr. Howells: The total number of locally engaged staff directly employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in Afghanistan is 72 (comprising 58 in Kabul and 14 in Lashkar Gah).

Afghanistan: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's personnel are in each province of Afghanistan; what role they are playing in each province; and if he will make a statement. [162516]

Dr. Howells: The UK employs a broad range of staff in support of the Government of Afghanistan to help develop a stable and secure Afghanistan. Over one hundred civilian staff in Kabul and over thirty staff in the southern provinces of Helmand and Kandahar are employed from across the Government, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Afghanistan drugs inter-departmental unit. Their roles include work in governance, reconstruction and development, and counter-narcotics.

Afghanistan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funds the UK has provided to the Afghan reconciliation programme, Programme Takhim-e-Solh; and if he will make a statement on the operation of the programme. [164348]

Dr. Howells: The UK supports President Karzai's efforts to bring disaffected Afghans into society's mainstream, providing they renounce violence and accept Afghanistan's constitution. In this context, the UK spent just under the allocated £500,000 in support of the Program Takhim-e-Solh programme in Afghanistan in the last financial year (2006-07). The UK has allocated a further £330,000 in the current financial year.

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on whether a co-ordinator to head international reconstruction and development work in Afghanistan at the UN Security Council should be appointed; and if he will make a statement. [164098]

David Miliband: Tom Koenigs is the current special representative to the UN Secretary-General in Afghanistan. His remit covers co-ordination of international reconstruction and development work. His contract extends to February 2008 and we, with other UN member states, are discussing a suitable successor.

The UN's role in co-ordinating the international effort in Afghanistan is very important. The UK is committed to supporting the UN effort, led by a senior UN representative for the long term.

Afghanistan: United Nations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the replacement of the UN representative in Afghanistan; what discussions he has had with his Security Council counterparts on this issue; when he expects the replacement to be announced; and if he will make a statement. [162880]

David Miliband: Tom Koenigs is the current special representative to the UN Secretary-General in Afghanistan. His contract extends to February 2008.

The UN's role in co-ordinating the international effort in Afghanistan is very important. The UK is committed to supporting the UN effort to improve the current levels of international co-ordination, led by a senior UN representative for the long term. We discuss this with our Security Council counterparts on a regular basis. However, the decision on a replacement is ultimately the decision of the Secretary-General.

Asma Jahangir

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will intervene in the case of Asma Jahangir, who is in prison in Pakistan. [163578]

Dr. Howells: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to him today (UIN 163937).

Bosnia: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the UN/EU High Representative's decision to improve the functioning of state institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina and of the effect this decision has had on political stability in the country. [163861]

David Miliband: We fully support High Representative Lajcak and his efforts to improve the functioning of state institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The measures he took on 19 October are designed to improve the Council of Ministers' ability to take decisions and will make it harder for representatives to obstruct the working of Parliament through absenteeism. The measures are fully in line with the constitution and do not target any constituent people. We are urging political representatives from all sides in BiH to accept Lajcak's measures.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the conclusions of the Peace Implementation Council on 31 October on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [163863]

David Miliband: The Peace Implementation Council (PIC) steering board meeting of 30-31 October expressed concern over the continued deterioration of the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It judged that responsibility lay with political leaders from both entities who have blocked progress and undermined the political situation with their aggressive rhetoric. The statement expressed full support for completing implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement, including efforts to tackle the evident dysfunctionality of state institutions. We were disappointed that Russia chose to dissent over one paragraph, but overall we judge the PIC conclusions to be a strong signal of support for High Representative Lajcak.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* the EU and *(b)* the US on the political situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [163864]

David Miliband: We have been in close contact with our EU and US counterparts over the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), including through the Contact Group, the EU and the Peace Implementation Council (PIC). Members of all of these groups share our concern over the deteriorating political situation in BiH and the failure of the country's leaders to make progress on key reforms. This concern was underlined in the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council conclusions of 15 October and the PIC statement of 30-31 October. We continue to stay in regular contact with relevant international actors including our EU and US partners.

British Council: Vetting

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the British Council's policy is on conducting Criminal Records Bureau checks on *(a)* its employees and *(b)* people working on its behalf. [163688]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The British Council's policy on conducting Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks complies fully with UK law. The British Council has in place a comprehensive child protection policy which all British Council staff and outside consultants or contractors whose responsibilities involve access to children and young people must adhere to.

Its employees

Since the early 1990s, the British Council has asked all newly recruited teachers to sign a child declaration form indicating that they have had no history or background relating to child protection issues that would preclude them from the British Council's employment.

From January 2005, the British Council has implemented CRB checks on all staff working in the UK whose jobs involve contact with children.

From January 2007, the British Council has run CRB checks on all teachers recruited in the UK, through its headquarters to work overseas. Where teachers are recruited directly by overseas teaching centres, similar checks are run when available in the relevant country. This is available in six of the 48 countries in which the British Council have teaching centres. Where no CRB equivalent exists, the British Council will seek information on individuals in their references.

In addition, the British Council is conducting retrospective CRB checks on all teachers where these have not already been carried out. The British Council expects to complete checks on all teachers:

that have lived or worked in the UK by the end of 2007;

that have lived or worked in countries with CRB equivalents by mid-2008; and

in the remaining 42 countries where no CRB equivalent exists, where at all possible, by the end of 2008.

People working on its behalf

Employment agencies providing the British Council with temporary staff, and companies providing support services, must confirm that their own recruitment practices are consistent with the British Council's child protection policy. For consultants and other temporary staff working in posts designated as having direct contact with children and young people, the British Council must receive confirmation that the individuals concerned have undergone due checks.

Chechnya: Politics and Government

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the changes to the constitution proposed in the forthcoming referendum in Chechnya, Russia; and if he will make a statement. [162879]

David Miliband: We continue to watch developments closely as Chechnya, and the rest of the north Caucasus, remain fragile and vulnerable to human rights violations. We believe that the best guarantee of political stability is for the federal and local authorities to work together in the republic to improve the democratic accountability of government structures, and to address the social and economic needs of the population.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to publish his Department's autumn performance report. [164872]

Meg Munn: HM Treasury asked Departments to publish their autumn performance reports (APRs) between 1 November and 15 December 2007. We expect to publish the Foreign and Commonwealth Office APR during this window. The Treasury Public Expenditure Survey guidance note of 16 August 2007 commissioning the APRs is available at:

http://hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/F/D/pes_2007_12.pdf.

Departments: Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1316W, what reasonable adjustments the Department has made in accordance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, broken down by building; what each such adjustment cost; and if he will make a statement. [163914]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has carried out all the reasonable adjustments to our UK premises identified as required to meet the needs of the disabled under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995. However, given that the many individual adjustments formed part of general programmes of building upkeep, and that 19 years has elapsed since the Act was passed, the level of detail requested by the hon. Member could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The whole of the FCO's UK estate has been assessed for ease of accessibility in relation to disabled users. The assessments recommended a number of reasonable adjustments, which have been carried out over the last 12 years. These include voice announcements and Braille/raised buttons in lifts, converting goods elevators to passenger use, installing wheelchair lifts, providing portable ramps, stairwalkers and evacuation chairs. We have moved kitchen equipment and lowered counter tops in tea points where necessary and provided vibrating pagers linked to fire alarm systems or security guards. Other examples of changes made include specialist furniture, new signage, replacement floor surfaces for easier access and contrasting strips on step edges, and adjusting working hours of disabled staff.

Overseas, posts are aware of the principles of the DDA and have been instructed to review disabled access, make information about accessibility available, and where possible make improvements. Where access is limited, posts seek alternative ways of providing accessible services.

We work closely with the FCO disabled persons' representatives and when local circumstances change we conduct further assessments.

EU-African Union Summit

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what decisions have been made about the level at which the UK will be represented at the EU-African Union summit; and if he will make a statement. [163865]

David Miliband: No final decision has been made on the level of UK attendance at the EU-Africa summit. But my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has been clear that neither he nor any senior UK Government Minister will attend the summit if President Mugabe is present.

Iraq: Detainees

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* Iraqis and *(b)* non-Iraqis remain in British custody in Iraq; what arrangements have been made for the handover of these detainees to the Iraqi authorities; and if he will make a statement. [163412]

David Miliband: The UK currently holds 36 detainees at the divisional internment facility at Basra air station, all of whom are Iraqi nationals.

The UK detains individuals in Iraq for imperative reasons of security under the authority of UN Security Council Resolution 1723 (2006). It is a power we use sparingly and we take our responsibilities to our detainees seriously. Where possible, we seek to release individuals or transfer their cases to the Iraqi justice system. The UK has obtained assurances from the government of Iraq to ensure that anyone transferred from UK to Iraqi custody will be treated in accordance with basic international human rights principles.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the progress being made in negotiations on the final status of Kosovo. [163862]

David Miliband: The UK fully supports the work of the EU-Russia-US Troika aimed at reaching agreement between Belgrade and Pristina on Kosovo's future status. The process will be concluded by the Contact Group reporting to the UN Secretary-General by 10 December.

So far there have been four rounds of face-to-face talks between the parties. The last round took place in Vienna on 5 November. A further round is scheduled to take place on 20 November.

We share the UN Secretary-General's view that the status quo in Kosovo is unsustainable. We see an early resolution of Kosovo's status as crucial to the stability and security of the Balkans and Europe as a whole.

Law Making

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on implementing the European Inter-institutional Agreement on better law making 2003, with particular reference to measure 34 on the creation and publication of transposition tables; whether a transposition co-ordinator has been appointed; and if he will make a statement. [163411]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

Significant progress has been made embedding use of impact assessment in the policy-making process and in simplifying existing EU legislation. In particular, the European Council in March 2007 endorsed a Commission proposal to set a target to reduce administrative burdens arising from EU law by 25 per cent. by 2012. As far as paragraph 34 is concerned, a transposition coordinator has been appointed in the Cabinet Office European Secretariat. New guidance for officials on transposition was published in September; this explains how officials can use the transposition notes they provide to Parliament as transposition tables for the European Commission. All transposition notes are published at the Office of Public Sector Information website,

www.opsi.gov.uk

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial and logistical resources the European Union is providing to the Quartet's special envoy Mr. Blair; what *(a)* salary, *(b)* expenses provision and *(c)* support staff will be available to him; what share of the costs the United Kingdom is contributing; and if he will make a statement. [162876]

David Miliband: Mr. Blair is not paid a salary in his role as Quartet Representative. The UK has provided £400,000 to a United Nations Development Programme Trust Fund which provides operational and technical support to Mr. Blair's office in Jerusalem. The UK has also seconded four staff to his team. Other international donors are also supporting his work.

We strongly support the work of Mr. Blair. He is well placed to drive forward Palestinian capacity building, which is a clear priority.

Pakistan: Detainees

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to urge the Pakistani authorities to release all non-violent democracy and human rights activists recently arrested, including the UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion and Belief, Ms Asma Jahangir, and the Director of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Mr. I. A. Rehman. [163937]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made clear in a statement to the House on 7 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 130-32, that we condemn the mass detentions of politicians,

lawyers and human rights activists, and call for their immediate release. It is vital that the Government of Pakistan act quickly to restore the constitution, hold free and fair elections on schedule, honour the president's commitment to step down as army chief and lift restrictions on the media.

Our high commission in Islamabad has raised our concern at the highest levels for the welfare and safety of Asma Jahangir, head of the Pakistan Human Rights Commission and UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, I. A. Rehman and all those in detention. Close attention is being paid to their treatment and preparations are under way both bilaterally, and through the EU, to visit or contact as many as possible.

In parallel, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, met Hina Jilani (Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders) on 8 November to discuss the current situation in Pakistan. They expressed concern about the hundreds of political detainees in Pakistan, including Hina Jilani's sister, Asma Jahangir.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to raise the current political and security situation in Pakistan at the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Uganda. [164352]

Dr. Howells: The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) met in London on 12 November to discuss the situation in Pakistan, and issued a Statement. The Statement is available on the Commonwealth's website at:

http://www.thecommonwealth.org/.

My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, represented the UK at the meeting.

The situation will be discussed further when CMAG meets on 22 November in Kampala, immediately prior to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his estimate is of the number of Pakistani citizens who have been detained by the authorities in Pakistan under the state of emergency. [164353]

Dr. Howells: It is not possible to put a figure on the number of people detained following the declaration of the state of emergency. There are various estimates ranging from a few hundred to several thousand. The situation is very fluid. Some of the detainees have been released.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear in a statement to the House on 7 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 130-132 that we condemn the mass detentions of politicians, lawyers and human rights activists, and call for their immediate release. It is vital that the Government of Pakistan act quickly to restore the constitution, hold free and fair elections on schedule, honour the President's commitment to step down as army chief and lift restrictions on the media.

Our high commission in Islamabad has raised its concern for the welfare and safety of all those in detention at the highest levels. Close attention is being paid to their treatment and preparations are under way to visit or contact as many as possible.

Parvaiz Aslam Chaudhry

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he will make representations to the Palestinian authority in the case of Parvaiz Aslam Chaudhry recently arrested in Pakistan. [163260]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear in a statement to the House on 7 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 130-32, that we condemn the mass detentions of politicians, lawyers and human rights activists, and call for their immediate release. It is vital that the Government of Pakistan act quickly to restore the constitution, hold free and fair elections on schedule, honour the President's commitment to step down as army chief and lift restrictions on the media.

Our high commission in Islamabad has raised its concern at the highest levels for the welfare and safety of Parvaiz Aslam Chaudhry and all those in detention. Close attention is being paid to their treatment and preparations are under way, both bilaterally and through the EU, to visit or contact as many as possible

Wael al-Haj Ibrahim

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made or plans to make to the Government of Sudan on the recent expulsion of the head of the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs in South Darfur, Mr. Wael al-Haj Ibrahim; and if he will make a statement. [164349]

Meg Munn: The UK shares international concerns at the expulsion of the Head of the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs in South Darfur on 7 November and fully supports UN efforts to resolve the case. The UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Humanitarian Co-ordinator told the Government of Sudan on 10 November that the expulsion contravened the letter and spirit of the Joint Communiqué of 28 March 2007, which undertakes to remove bureaucratic impediments to humanitarian agencies.

The UK and UN are pressing the Government of Sudan to comply with the commitments made to the international community, including through the High Level Committee, which monitors the implementation of the Joint Communiqué. The UK is due to assume an observer seat on the Committee.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to raise issues relating to Zimbabwe at the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [164345]

Meg Munn: As Zimbabwe is no longer a member of the Commonwealth, it will not be on the formal agenda of the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. It is likely however to be discussed in the margins of the meeting.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what contracts his Department has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts are for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163804]

Edward Miliband: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and may not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the sponsoring firm is of each external consultant working in his Department. [164774]

Edward Miliband: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and may not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental NDPBs

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; who the chairman is of each; and to what salary, including bonuses and expenses, each chairman is entitled. [163609]

Edward Miliband: The information requested is currently being collated to be published as part of the 2007 Public Appointments Plan in due course. The latest published information is available in the directory "Public Bodies 2006"

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/documents/pdf/public_bodies/publicbodies2006.pdf

Copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

European Union

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what items of EU branded material were purchased by his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [164540]

Edward Miliband: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and may not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Strategy Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what projects are being undertaken by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit. [164545]

Edward Miliband: The Strategy Unit's work programme falls into two broad parts:

(a) standing teams covering core policy areas including education; health; home affairs; and public service improvement.

(b) a small number of time-limited projects covering cross-cutting issues such as childhood and food policy.

TREASURY

Bank Melli

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps will have to be taken by the UK in response to the 25 October designation of Bank Melli and its branches and subsidiaries by the United States in relation to proliferation activities and support for terrorism. [163897]

Kitty Ussher: The United States sanctions of 25 October against Iranian individuals and entities are domestic measures that are not part of UK law.

The UK takes seriously the risks to the financial system posed by Iran's lack of a comprehensive anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist finance (AML/CTF) system. At the recent meeting of the financial action task force, the international standard setting body currently chaired by the UK, FATF members issued a public statement to express concerns that Iran represents a significant vulnerability within the international financial system. FATF members are advising their financial institutions to take the risk arising from deficiencies in Iran's AML/CTF regime into account for enhanced due diligence. The Treasury has issued guidance to this effect to financial institutions in the UK.

Banks: Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the implications are for Iranian banks based in the UK of the designation of Iranian entities and individuals for proliferation activities and support for terrorism by the United States on 25 October. [163896]

Kitty Ussher: The United States sanctions of 25 October against Iranian individuals and entities are domestic measures and are not therefore part of UK law.

As the United States Department of the Treasury said in its press statement of 25 October, as a result of the measures all transactions involving any of the designees and any US person will be prohibited and any assets the designees may have under US jurisdiction will be frozen.

Cancer

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many cases of ovarian cancer were *(a)* diagnosed and *(b)* cured in (i) Gateshead and (ii) Sunderland in each of the last 10 years; [163358]

(2) how many cases of breast cancer were *(a)* diagnosed and *(b)* cured in (i) Gateshead and (ii) Sunderland in each of the last 10 years. [163359]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 15 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary questions asking how many cases of ovarian cancer were *(a)* diagnosed and *(b)* cured in (i) Gateshead and (ii) Sunderland in each of the last 10 years [163358] and how many cases of breast cancer were *(a)* diagnosed and *(b)* cured in (i) Gateshead and (ii) Sunderland in each of the last 10 years [163359].

Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of ovarian cancers registered in the Gateshead and Sunderland local authorities between 1995 and 2004 (the latest year for which figures are available) are given in Table 1.

Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancers registered in the Gateshead and Sunderland local authorities between 1995 and 2004 (the latest year for which figures are available) are given in Table 2.

It is not possible to say whether or not patients are cured. For most cancers, but not breast, five-year survival rates are often taken to be 'cure' rates.

Survival rates by local authority are not available, but one and five year survival for eight common cancers including breast cancer by strategic health authority and Government Office region, for patients diagnosed in 1997-99 and followed up to 31 December 2004, are available on the National Statistics website at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=11991&Pos=9&ColRank=1&Rank=272

The breast cancer figures are given in Table 3 for the North East.

Long-term breast cancer survival rates for Government Office regions, up to 2003 are available on the National Statistics website at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14172&More=n

and are given in Table 4 for the North East.

Table 1. Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of ovarian cancer[1] registered in Gateshead and Sunderland local authorities: females, 1995 to 2004

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Gateshead	26	28	19	19	26	20	24	21	17	18
Sunderland	26	46	21	40	35	40	20	35	39	30

[1] Ovarian cancer is defined by codes C56 and C57 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2. Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer[1] registered in Gateshead and Sunderland local authorities: females, 1995 to 2004

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Gateshead	123	148	129	142	148	150	128	146	166	166
Sunderland	132	170	189	178	160	189	179	209	195	249

[1] Breast cancer is defined by code C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 3. Five-year age-standardised relative survival (percentage) from breast cancer in women[1] aged 15-99 for the North East

Patients diagnosed in 1997-99 and followed up to 31-12-04	
North East Government Office Region	77
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	77
County Durham and Tees Valley	78
Patients diagnosed in 1996-98 and followed up to 31-12-03	
North East Government Office Region	74
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	72
County Durham and Tees Valley	76
Patients diagnosed in 1995-97 and followed up to 31-12-02	
North East Government Office Region	68
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	65
County Durham and Tees Valley	72
Patients diagnosed in 1994-96 and followed up to 31-12-01	
North East Government Office Region	69
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	67
County Durham and Tees Valley	72

[1] All female (15-99 years) residents who were diagnosed with breast cancer that was their first, primary, invasive malignant neoplasm were eligible for analysis.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 4. Breast Cancer - Predicted long-term relative survival[1] (percentage) for the North East Government Office region: women aged 15-99 years at diagnosis (age-standardised[2])

		Duration of survival (percentage)			
[3]Women	[4]Deaths	One year	Five years	10 years	15 years
13,272	1,918	94	80	69	66

[1] Period approach (2001-03)
[2] Age-standardisation with age-specific weights given by the proportions of women diagnosed with breast cancer in England and Wales during 1986-90 in each of six age groups (15-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-99 years).
[3] Number of women included in the analyses.
[4] Number of deaths occurring among these women during the stated period.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Child Benefit

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of recipients of child benefit draw it from post offices *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Oxfordshire. [163338]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* Around 8 per cent. of all child benefit recipients were paid using a Post Office Card Account (POCA) at August 2007.

Sub-national estimates are not yet available for August 2007. At August 2006 around 5 per cent. of customers in Oxfordshire were paid using a POCA account.

Clostridium: Elderly

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people over the age of 85 died from *(a)* clostridium difficile and *(b)* MRSA infections in each year since 1997. [165334]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 15 November 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people over the age of 85 died from *(a)* Clostridium difficile and *(b)* MRSA infections in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (165334)

Special analyses of deaths involving MRSA and Clostridium difficile are undertaken annually by ONS for England and Wales. These are published in Health Statistics Quarterly. The latest year for which such figures are available is 2005.

The data requested are presented in the table below.

Table 1: Number of deaths certificates in England and Wales where (1) Clostridium difficile[1] and (2) MRSA[2] were (a) mentioned and (b) recorded as the underlying cause of death[3] for persons aged 85 and over, 1997-2005[3,4]

	(1) Clostridium difficile		(2) MRSA	
	(a) Mentions	(b) Underlying Cause	(a) Mentions	(b) Underlying Cause
1997	[5]Not available	[5]Not available	104	27
1998	[5]Not available	[5]Not available	104	33
1999	439	259	133	35
2000	[5]Not available	[5]Not available	175	50
2001	592	359	204	86
2002	677	389	204	80
2003	890	506	281	103
2004	1,072	634	343	128
2005	1,847	1,056	511	184

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics (2005) Report: Deaths involving *Clostridium difficile*: England and Wales, 1999-2004. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 30, 56-60.

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Griffiths C, Lamagni TL, Crowcroft NS, Duckworth G and Rooney C (2004) Trends in MRSA in England and Wales: analysis of morbidity and mortality data for 1993-2002. Health Statistics Quarterly 21, 15-22.

[2] Excludes neonatal deaths.

[3] *Clostridium difficile*: Deaths registered in 1999, deaths occurring in 2001-05.

[4] MRSA: Deaths occurring in each year.

[5] All deaths in England and Wales are coded by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). The Tenth revision (ICD-10) has been used by the ONS since 2001. In the Ninth revision of the ICD (ICD-9) there are no specific codes that would allow deaths mentioning *Clostridium difficile* to be easily identified. Identifying these deaths in ICD-9 would require extensive text searching of a very large number of death certificates. This could only be done at disproportionate cost. Data for 1997, 1998 and 2000 are therefore not available as ICD-9 was used in these years. Deaths registered in 1999 in England and Wales were coded to both ICD-9 and ICD-10 as part of a special study to compare the two ICD revisions, and have therefore been used to give an additional year of data on deaths involving *C. diff*. Data is available for MRSA in both ICD-9 and ICD-10.

Colorectal Cancer: Death

Mr. Heppell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people died from bowel cancer in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [165218]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 15 November 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died from bowel cancer in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997.I am replying in her absence. (165218)

The table attached provides the numbers of deaths where bowel cancer was the underlying cause of death in (a) Jarrow parliamentary constituency, (b) South Tyneside local authority, (c) North East government office region and (d) the UK from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths where bowel cancer was the underlying cause of death[1] Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside local authority, North East Government Office Region, and UK, 1997-2006[2, 3, 4]

Deaths (persons)

	Jarrow	South Tyneside	North East	UK
1997	36	61	860	17,308
1998	25	58	819	17,047
1999	26	50	761	16,651
2000	34	62	817	16,238
2001	38	57	818	16,195
2002	25	45	770	16,236
2003	33	47	762	16,159
2004	18	59	745	16,151
2005	21	51	799	16,117
2006	31	47	717	15,994

[1] Cause of death for bowel cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 153-154 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C18-C21. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[2] Based on parliamentary constituency and local authority boundaries as of 2007.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

[4] Figures include data provided by the Registrars General for Scotland and Northern Ireland. The 2006 figures provided by the Registrar General for Northern Ireland are provisional.

Departmental NDPBs

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; who the chairman is of each; and to what salary, including bonuses and expenses, each chairman is entitled. [163603]

Angela Eagle: The annual budget for the Statistics Commission, the Treasury's only NDPB, is £1.35 million. Its remit is "to help ensure that National Statistics are trustworthy and responsive to public needs". The Commission's chairman is Professor David Rhind who is paid £28,000 a year for 60 days work. He receives no bonus but can claim expenses to cover costs incurred while on Commission business.

Foreign Workers: Eastern Region

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people who have entered the UK in the last 10 years are included in the figures for employment in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk. [162988]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 15 November 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the number of people who entered the UK in the last ten years are included in the figures for employment in (a) the East of England and (b) Suffolk. I am replying in her absence. (162588)

The table attached gives the number of people resident of working age in East of England and Suffolk who entered the UK in the last ten years; and of those who are in employment for the three months ending June 2007.

When interpreting these figures, it is important to bear in mind that the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

The LFS estimates at this detailed level are only consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003 and they do not incorporate the more recent population estimates that are used in the headline labour market series.

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the LFS. The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis.

Estimates are taken from the LFS; as with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

People of working age[1] who were born overseas and came to the UK in the last 10 years, living in Suffolk and East of England, and in employment, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

Three months ending June 2007	Total foreign born population	In employment	Employment rates[2]
Suffolk	24	21	84.9
East of England	219	160	72.9

[1] Includes men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] In employment as a percentage of total population.

Notes:
It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the LFS is an undercount because:
it excludes those who have not been resident in the UK for 6 months.
it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent.
it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (eg hotels, boarding
houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc).
it is grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying for 12 months or more.
microdata is only grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.

Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Government Buildings: Access

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 889W, which buildings occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not considered main areas of the Treasury; and which buildings not considered main areas are not fully accessible to disabled people. [163913]

Angela Eagle: The term "main areas" referred to in the answer given on 29 October excluded the non-public areas such as plant rooms, roofs and other maintenance areas within the Treasury buildings where access may be restricted because of the configuration of machinery and plant, low ceiling heights, etc.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated extra annual revenue to the Exchequer would be if income tax were levied at *(a)* 50 per cent. on incomes over £100,000, *(b)* 60 per cent. on incomes over £250,000 and *(c)* 70 per cent. on incomes over £500,000; and how many people would be subject to each of these tax rates. [163336]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* Estimates of the information requested can be found as follows.

Income bands (£)	Tax band (%)	Extra revenue (£ billion)	Number of individuals affected (thousand)
100,000-250,000	50	3.6	420
250,000-500,000	60	2.6	70
500,000 +	70	5.0	30
All	—	11.2	420

These estimates are based on the 2004-05 Survey of Personal Incomes projected forward to 2007-08 using pre-Budget 2007 assumptions and include Budget 2007 changes. These figures exclude any estimate of behavioural response which could be significant given the scale of the change.

Migrant Workers

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many self-employed Romanian and Bulgarian migrant workers there are in the UK. [163167]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 15 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the number of self-employed Romanian and Bulgarian migrant workers who are currently employed in the United Kingdom. (163167)

The attached table gives the estimated number of self-employed Romanian and Bulgarian people of working age for April to June 2007.

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the Labour Force Survey. The National Statistics preferred method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This is the basis on which this PQ has been answered.

When interpreting the figures in the table, it is important to bear in mind that the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas, a detailed breakdown of the reasons are set out in the table footnote.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Number of working age[1] Romanian and Bulgarian self-employed workers, April to June 2007, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

Country of birth	*Self-employed*	*Total in employment*
Bulgaria	7	13
Romania	7	18

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.

Note:
It should be noted that the above estimates:
exclude those who have been resident in the UK for less than 6 months
exclude students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent
exclude people in most types of communal establishment (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc)
are grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying 12 months or more
are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates as used in the Labour Market Statistics monthly First Release.

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many skilled public sector jobs have been filled by Romanian and Bulgarian migrant workers since the accession of their countries to the EU. [163168]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 15 November 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many skilled public sector jobs have been filled by Romanian and Bulgarian migrant workers since the accession of their countries to the EU. I am replying in her absence. (163168)

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Annual Population Survey (APS) provide estimates of the number of public sector employees by occupation, country of birth and nationality, at a given time. However, the LFS and APS samples are too small to provide the information requested.

Public Sector: Manpower

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of public sector employees in the UK have been *(a)* British-born UK nationals, *(b)* overseas-born UK nationals, *(c)* nationals of other EU member states and *(d)* nationals of countries outside the EU in each year since 1996. [162052]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 15 November 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the proportion of public sector employees in the UK who are a) British-born UK nationals, b) Overseas-born UK nationals, c) nationals of other EU member states and d) nationals of countries outside the EU in each year since 1996. I am replying in her absence. (162052)

The attached table gives the proportion of public sector employees in the categories requested for the three month period ending June each year, from 1997 to 2007. Comparable estimates are not available for 1996, 1998 and 2000.

The data for analysing migrant workers come from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. However, you have requested data based on foreign nationality and this is the basis on which this question has been answered.

When interpreting the figures in the table, it is important to bear in mind that the LFS is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas, for the reasons which are set out in the table footnotes. It should also be noted that the categorisation of employment in the public sector is based on individual responses in LFS interviews which often do not correspond to the National Accounts definition of public sector employment.

As reported by ONS in an article, "Characteristics of Pubic Sector Workers", published in the May 2007 edition of Economic and Labour Market Review , LFS public/private sector classifications suffer from some reporting error and the data do not correspond to the National Accounts definition, which is used for the official public sector employment statistics mainly based on returns from public sector organisations.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Working age[1] public sector employees by nationality[2] as a percentage of all working age public sector employees—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted 1997 to 2007

Percentage

Three months ending June each year	*UK-born UK nationals*	*Overseas-born UK nationals*	*EU nationals*	*Non-EU nationals*
1997	92	4	2	2
1999	92	4	2	2
2001	92	4	1	3
2002	92	4	2	2
2003	91	4	2	3
2004	91	4	2	3
2005	91	4	2	3
2006	90	5	2	4
2007	90	5	2	4

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] Including country of birth for UK nationals.

Notes:
Comparable data not available for 1996, 1998 and 2000.
It should be noted that the above estimates:
-exclude those who have been resident in the UK for less than six months
-exclude students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent
-exclude people in most types of communal establishment (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc)

Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey

Terrorism: Aviation

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of proposals to limit the liability of UK airlines in the event of an airborne terrorist attack involving a UK airline in *(a)* British and *(b)* foreign airspace. [164831]

Kitty Ussher: The Government do not intend to exempt or limit airlines' liability. Aviation is an international business and the best route for issues of aviation liability is through reform of the 1952 Rome Convention in the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

The ICAO is currently working to revise the 1952 Rome Convention on third party liability. The next step is for the ICAO legal committee to consider the latest draft of a convention on unlawful interference. The UK will participate in these discussions when they take place next year.

Unemployment: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Wales were *(a)* unemployed and *(b)* economically inactive, broken down by (i) age group and (ii) sex, in each year since 1997. [162895]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 15 November 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many people in Wales were (a) unemployed and (b) economically inactive, broken down by (i) age group and (ii) sex, in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (162895)

The attached table gives the number of people in the categories requested for the three month period ending June each year, from 1997 to 2007. Comparable estimates are not available for 1998 and 2000.

Each month the ONS publishes estimates of the number of unemployed people in Wales, for 16+ and working age (men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59). Please visit the following link;

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LMs_FR_HS/WebTable18SA.xls

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Unemployed and economically inactive by working age[1] band and sex Wales, not seasonally adjusted, April to June 1997-2007[2]

thousand

	1997		1999		2001		2002		2003	
	Unemployed	*Inactive*	*Unemployed*	*Inactive*	*Unemployed*	*Inactive*	*Unemployed*	*Inactive*	*Unemployed*	*Inactive*
16-19										
Male	11	23	11	32	9	29	9	28	10	33
Female	6	27	7	29	6	30	6	37	6	33
20-24										
Male	14	10	11	15	11	17	9	17	7	17
Female	8	24	5	26	6	26	5	38	5	25
25-29										
Male	8	7	8	10	9	8	4	7	5	8
Female	7	24	4	28	3	26	3	26	[3]—	21
30-34										
Male	8	8	6	7	4	7	3	11	4	10
Female	4	31	6	32	3	28	4	28	2	21
35-39										
Male	7	10	5	8	3	12	3	9	2	8
Female	6	26	2	27	4	31	3	24	1	20
40-44										
Male	4	12	3	9	3	16	3	10	3	10
Female	2	22	2	21	2	25	[3]—	20	1	23
45-49										
Male	7	13	5	13	2	15	4	15	2	11
Female	3	24	3	20	1	27	2	21	[3]—	18
50-54										
Male	4	22	7	19	3	20	2	19	4	17
Female	3	34	1	40	[3]—	33	3	34	[3]—	29
55-59										
Male	2	28	3	32	3	30	2	28	3	31
Female	[3]—	39	2	39	[3]—	49	1	49	2	41
60-64										
Male	3	42	2	42	2	50	3	47	1	40

thousand

	2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Unemployed	Inactive	Unemployed	Inactive	Unemployed	Inactive	Unemployed	Inactive
16-19								
Male	7	26	11	35	9	39	12	35
Female	5	31	6	32	4	32	11	30
20-24								
Male	3	14	5	24	13	21	13	17
Female	8	32	5	29	5	26	6	31
25-29								
Male	3	5	4	13	10	9	4	5
Female	2	21	3	16	2	19	2	23
30-34								
Male	2	12	2	6	3	7	[3]—	7
Female	3	27	2	24	2	22	[3]—	21
35-39								
Male	2	9	3	8	3	9	2	9
Female	4	25	2	24	4	26	5	21
40-44								
Male	3	14	4	13	3	9	3	9
Female	1	21	1	26	5	24	3	27
45-49								
Male	2	12	3	9	2	11	3	10
Female	2	21	[3]—	21	2	21	5	20
50-54								
Male	3	13	3	16	2	15	3	18
Female	2	28	[3]—	25	2	26	[3]—	25
55-59								
Male	[3]—	30	2	34	2	26	3	27
Female	2	45	[3]—	48	2	42	2	45
60-64								
Male	[3]—	45	[3]—	45	1	45	[3]—	45

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and Women aged 16 to 59.
[2] Comparable estimates are not available for 1998 and 2000.
[3] Sample sizes are too small to provide reliable estimates.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

VAT

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the average time for a new applicant to be registered for VAT in the last three-month period for which figures are available. [164456]

Jane Kennedy: The average processing times for VAT registration applications for the latest three-month period is as follows:

Period	Average time taken in days
August 2007	42
September 2007	39
October 2007	28

These latest figures represent an upturn in HMRC performance, and this is an early sign that the improvement measures that are now in place are starting to have an impact. This upturn has taken place against an operational background that continues to present challenges, and alongside the ongoing need to operate pre-registration checks against serious abuse such as Missing Trader Intra-Community (MTIC) fraud.

Welfare Tax Credits

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many overpayments resulted from tax credit office error in each year since 2003; and of these how many are deemed recoverable. [163506]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the evidence given to the Treasury Select Committee on 14 March 2007 in response to my hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, Central (Jim Cousins).

HM Revenue and Customs has been collecting information on official error in disputed overpayment cases since April 2007. For the first part of 2007-08 the proportion of cases with an element of official error remains at around 5 per cent. Of the official error cases identified, more than three quarters have had their overpayment remitted.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have agreed co-sponsorship arrangements under the academies programme. [163385]

Jim Knight: The following local authorities have agreed to co-sponsor academies:

Cheshire County Council;
Corporation of London;
Coventry City Council;
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea;
Kent County Council;
Manchester City Council;
Sunderland City Council;
Telford and Wrekin Council;
West Sussex County Council.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to place academies under local authority oversight; and if he will make a statement. [163622]

Jim Knight: Academies exemplify the new role of local authorities as commissioners rather than providers of schools. Academies are, in effect, jointly commissioned by the Department and the relevant local authority on a partnership basis. Academies are not maintained by the local authority in the traditional manner, but each academy has at least one local authority representative on its governing body. My Department has no plans to change these arrangements.

Academies: Special Educational Needs

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will allow local authorities to direct school academies to admit pupils who have a statement of special educational needs. [164451]

Jim Knight: Academies are required by their Funding Agreements to admit pupils who have a statement of special educational needs (SEN) in any case where the statement names[1] the academy. A local authority (LA) must first consult an academy before naming it on a SEN statement, but the academy must consent unless admission of the pupil would be incompatible with the efficient education of other children, and no reasonable steps may be made to secure compatibility. In the case of a dispute between a LA and an academy, either side can ask the Secretary of State to determine whether or not the academy should be named. That determination is final, subject only to the parents' right of appeal to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal.

The Secretary of State also has the power, again through Funding Agreements, to direct an academy to admit a named pupil. Academies are independent schools, and we do not believe it would be appropriate for this power to pass to LAs.

[1] Part 4 of a SEN statement can be used to name the school which the LA believes to be best placed to meet the needs identified in earlier parts of the statement.

Capita

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was paid by the Department for Education and Skills to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [163192]

Jim Knight: Details of the amount paid to Capita and its subsidiaries by the Department for Education and Skills for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are set out in the following table.

	£
2004-05	206,577,675
2005-06	198,944,409

The expenditure relates to payments recorded in the Department's integrated financial information system and credited against Capita Group plc or its subsidiaries.

Children: Internet

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what arrangements are in place in England for teaching children in school about safe browsing of content on the internet; and if he will make a statement. [162099]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 12 November 2007]*: Becta has worked closely with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) to ensure that the revised secondary curriculum includes references to the teaching of e-safety. This is reflected in the revised level descriptors for each of the key stages. Becta and the QCA have also developed an Internet Proficiency scheme for Key Stage 2 pupils.

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) has also developed ThinkUKnow a primary and secondary education programme for schools

which focuses on developing safe and responsible behaviours online. This has been delivered to over one million children.

Becta works closely with local authorities and schools to ensure that there are appropriate measures in place to cover education and training for teachers, leaders and pupils, a safe secure infrastructure, effective policies and monitoring procedures all underpinned by robust standards and frameworks.

In addition, the Prime Minister has asked clinical psychologist Dr. Tanya Byron to conduct an independent review looking at the risks to children from exposure to potentially harmful or inappropriate material on the internet and in video games. The review will consider how all in society, including schools, parents, Government and industry can support children and young people to use the internet safely.

Curriculum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to his answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 834-36W, on curriculum, if he will make an estimate of the proportion of children in year 11 in English schools taught each GCSE subject not listed in the table in the answer for each year between 1997 and 2007; and if he will make a statement. [163101]

Jim Knight: A table containing the number of 15-year-olds entered for each of the most popular subjects at GCSE for each year between 1997 and 2006 has been placed in the House of Commons Library. This information for 2007 will be available at a later date. The information for every subject at GCSE can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dyslexia

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to require all teachers to undertake training on teaching children with dyslexia as part of their teaching degree. [163748]

Jim Knight: In order to be awarded qualified teacher status, all trainee teachers must demonstrate that they know how to make effective personalised provision for those they teach including pupils with special educational needs (SEN), and know how to differentiate their teaching accordingly. They are also required to demonstrate knowledge of current legislation and guidance on the safeguarding and promotion of the well-being of children and young people, including SEN and disability legislation and the SEN code of practice. The professional standards further require them to demonstrate understanding of the roles of colleagues with specific responsibility for groups of learners with SEN and other needs, and demonstrate ability to communicate effectively with children, young people, colleagues, parents and carers.

As part of a wider programme to strengthen understanding of SEN and disability issues within initial teacher training, the Training and Development Agency for Schools has been developing and piloting specialist SEN and disability units for primary undergraduate courses and for newly qualified teachers during their induction. These include specific units on dyslexia. The units have been received well by both staff and students and it is planned to organise a national roll out to all training providers in the coming year. Work is under way to develop similar materials for secondary undergraduate courses and the PGCE.

On 17 October, we launched the Inclusion Development Programme, a programme of confidence-raising professional development for serving teachers and other staff. The opening round focuses on training in relation to children's communication difficulties including dyslexia.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will reduce the age limit for education maintenance allowance eligibility. [164253]

Jim Knight: There are no current plans to reduce the age limit for education maintenance allowance eligibility.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many unqualified teachers marked *(a)* A-level, *(b)* GCSE, *(c)* Key Stage 3 SATs and *(d)* Key Stage 2 SATs examination papers in each year since 2001. [163553]

Jim Knight: The regulatory authorities for the public exams systems in England, Wales and Northern Ireland issue a joint code of practice which requires awarding bodies to ensure that candidates' work is marked by suitably experienced and trained examiners. Data on examiners' qualifications are not collected by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), which is the regulatory authority in England for GCSEs and A-levels.

The National Assessment Agency (NAA), which is responsible for the external marking of national curriculum tests, specifies the criteria for eligibility to be considered for employment as a test marker. Until 2003, these were the possession of a degree or equivalent, and to be a practising teacher. Since 2004, applicants with a degree and who are taking a Post Graduate Certificate of Education course have also been eligible. The NAA does not collect data about the details of test markers' qualifications.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance his Department has issued to exam boards on employing people overseas to mark exam papers; [163555]

(2) what assessment he has made of the standard of literacy among overseas markers; and if he will make a statement. [163556]

Jim Knight: The regulatory authorities issue a code of practice which requires awarding bodies to ensure that candidates' work is marked by suitably experienced and trained examiners. The awarding bodies are responsible for their own selection criteria in recruiting examiners to ensure that they fulfil that remit.

Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what evidence he has assessed from international surveys of improvements in educational standards in England since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [163539]

Jim Knight: International comparisons studies play an important role in benchmarking against other countries and as pointers to what we might learn from other school systems. They can also provide useful supplementary information about attainment, although they are not necessarily measuring the same content and processes as national tests.

The most recent findings come from the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) which was conducted in 2003. TIMSS found that the performance of 10-year-olds in England had improved significantly from 1995 to 2003 in both science and mathematics. However, the performance of 14-year-olds in England, as reported in TIMSS, had not increased significantly between 1995 and 1999 and 1999 and 2003, for either science or mathematics.

The OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), focusing on the mathematics performance of 15-year-olds, was also carried out in 2003 but concluded that data for the UK could not be considered valid either for international comparisons or for constructing trends in performance because response rates from schools and pupils did not meet its strict participation rate requirements. PISA was conducted again in 2006, this time with a focus on science, and findings from the study will be published on 4 December 2007.

The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) was first carried out in 2001 and examined the reading performance of 10-year-olds. The average score for England was 553. Findings from the most recent round of PIRLS, conducted in 2006, will be published on 28 November 2007.

Educational Institutions: Music

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many specialist music colleges there are. [164024]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* There are 48 specialist music colleges in England. This total includes establishments for which music is designated as a second specialism.

Educational Visits: Insurance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average cost of insurance taken out by schools in respect of school trips was in each year since 1997. [163438]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold this information. Schools make their own insurance arrangements and are not required to provide the Government with information about their arrangements.

Free School Meals

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children claiming free school meals achieved five or more GCSEs in each year since 1997. [164244]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* The available information showing the proportions of children claiming free school meals who achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C is given in the following table:

	Proportion of those claiming free school meals achieving 5 GCSE passes at grades A-C (Percentage)*
2002(final)	23.0
2003	24.4
2004	26.1
2005	29.9
2006	33.0

Source:
National Pupil Database

This information is not available prior to 2002. Information on the numbers of children claiming free school meals and achieving five or more GCSEs is not readily available for all years.

These figures are compiled from a series of SFRs titled "National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics". The latest published information is for 2005/06. Final data and can be found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgatewav/DB/SFR/s000708/index.shtml

Provisional information for 2007 is scheduled for publication on 27 November in SFR 38/2007 which can be found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgatewav/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml.

GCE A-level

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what qualifications are required to be an examiner for *(a)* A-levels and *(b)* GCSEs. [163203]

Jim Knight: The GCSE, GCE, GNVQ and AEA Code of Practice requires awarding bodies to ensure that students' work is marked by suitably experienced and trained examiners. The awarding bodies determine their own recruitment and selection requirements in light of the requirements of the Code of Practice.

GCSE: Standards

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of pupils gained five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics in each of the last five years; [163689]

(2) what percentage of *(a)* pupils and *(b)* boys did not gain five GCSEs at grades A* to C in each of the last five years; [163690]

(3) what percentage of boys did not obtain one or more GCSEs at grades A*-C in each of the last five years; [163691]

(4) what percentage of pupils gained five GCSEs at grades A*-C in each of the last five years. [163692]

Jim Knight: The information requested is in the following table:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Percentage of pupils gaining five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C	52.9	53.7	56.3	58.5	60.3
Percentage of boys gaining five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C	47.9	48.8	51.4	53.8	55.8
Percentage of pupils who did not obtain one or more GCSEs at grades A*-C	24.2	24.2	22.5	21.1	19.2
Percentage of boys who did not obtain one or more GCSEs at grades A*-C	29.0	28.9	27.0	25.3	22.9
Percentage of pupils gaining five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and Maths	41.9	42.6	44.3	45.3	45.7

Notes:
1. Figures from 2006-07 are provisional. Schools will get the opportunity to amend their results as part of the data checking process before the revised figures are published in January 2008.
2. Figures relate to the achievements of pupils who were 15-years-old at the start of the school year, i.e. 31 August.
3. Results from 2004 onwards include equivalencies.

Source:
Data taken from the annual GCSE Statistical First Releases (SFRs) available at:
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000474/index.shtml (2002/2003)
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000585/index.shtml (2003/2004)
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000664/index.shtml (2004/2005)
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000702/index.shtml (2005/2006)
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000754/index.shtml (2006/2007)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils gained five A* to Cs at GCSE including a modern language in each year since 1997. [164818]

Jim Knight: The information to answer the question can only be provided at disproportionate cost. However, information on the proportion of pupils entered for a modern foreign language at GCSE and the proportion of those pupils entered who gained an A*-C grade is readily available and given in the following table.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007[2]
Percentage of pupils[1] entered for a modern foreign language at GCSE	74	77	78	79	78	76	73	68	59	51	46
Percentage of pupils[1] entered for a modern foreign language at GCSE gaining A*-C grade	48	48	50	50	51	52	50	53	60	64	66

[1] Figures from 1997 to 2004 are for pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year. Figures from 2004 to 2007 are for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.
[2] Figures for 2007 are provisional.

GCSE: Languages

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has received about grade boundaries for modern language GCSE courses; what steps are being taken in response to those representations; and if he will make a statement. [164133]

Jim Knight: Lord Dearing's Languages Review, published in March 2007, identified the need to resolve the widely held perception that languages GCSEs are harder than other subjects. The review recognised that there are other reasons pupils do not perform as well in languages as in other subjects, such as the quality of teaching and the motivation of the pupil.

As a result, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), as the regulator with responsibility for standards in GCSE, is looking at the issue. In the course of this work the QCA has received several representations from schools about grade boundaries for modern foreign languages. It is currently finalising its response.

Languages: Primary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what minimum level of qualification is required to teach a modern foreign language in a primary school. [164422]

Jim Knight: To teach in a primary school as a qualified teacher it is necessary to have gained qualified teacher status via one of the undergraduate,

postgraduate or employment-based routes into teaching. It will be for the head teacher to decide whether a teacher has the necessary knowledge and experience for a particular role in the school.

The law also allows unqualified teachers to work as instructors when they have a specific skill or knowledge, where a qualified teacher is not available and again where the head teacher is satisfied that this person is able to properly fulfil this role.

Mathematics: Teachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many qualified *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* physics and *(c)* chemistry teachers there were in maintained schools in England in each year from 1988 to 2007; and if he will make a statement. [163820]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of full-time teachers in service in secondary schools by subject of qualification is available from the Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey (SSCSS), an occasional sample survey undertaken in the years 1988, 1992, 1996, 2002 and 2007. 2007 figures are expected to be published in early 2008.

The following table provides the estimated number of full-time secondary school teachers with a post A-level qualification in mathematics, physics and chemistry, irrespective of whether they are teaching the subject, in England for the years available.

Number of full-time teachers[1] in maintained secondary schools with a post A-level qualification in mathematics, physics and chemistry

	1988	*1992*	*1996*	*2002*
Mathematics	42,000	38,100	27,100	n/a
Physics	17,600	15,900	10,400	n/a
Chemistry	16,600	15,000	10,700	n/a

n/a - not available

[1] Teachers are counted once for each subject in which they have a qualification.

Source:

Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey.

Information for 2002 is not available on the same basis. Figures for the number of teachers teaching each subject area and the level of qualification in that subject are available however and these are provided in the following table.

Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Highest post A-level qualifications[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England

Percentages

	Degree[3]	*BEd*	*PGCE*	*Cert Ed*	*Other Qual.*	*No Qual.*	*Total teachers (Thousand)*
Mathematics	42 ± 3	15 ± 2	9 ± 2	7 ± 1	2 ± 1	24 ± 2	28.2
English	51 ± 3	15 ± 2	7 ± 1	6 ± 1	1 ± 1	20 ± 2	29.4
Combined/General science	62 ± 3	12 ± 2	10 ± 2	4 ± 1	1 ± 1	11 ± 2	28.3
Biology[4]	71 ± 5	7 ± 3	11 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± 1	7 ± 3	5.6
Chemistry[4]	72 ± 5	6 ± 3	12 ± 4	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	7 ± 3	5.2
Physics[4]	63 ± 6	11 ± 4	15 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± -	8 ± 3	4.7
Other sciences[4]	10 ± 6	4 ± 4	5 ± 4	- ± -	- ± -	80 ± 8	1.6
French	54 ± 3	7 ± 2	10 ± 2	3 ± 1	2 ± 1	23 ± 3	16.0
German	47 ± 5	6 ± 3	13 ± 4	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	30 ± 5	6.9
Spanish	37 ± 7	8 ± 4	19 ± 6	- ± -	3 ± 2	33 ± 7	3.6
Other modern languages	18 ± 8	- ± -	9 ± 7	- ± -	3 ± 4	71 ±10	1.4
Design and technology[5]	26 ± 3	20 ± 3	7 ± 2	21 ± 3	2 ± 1	24 ± 3	20.9
ICT[5, 6]	13 ± 2	6 ± 1	8 ± 2	2 ± 1	3 ± 1	69 ± 3	18.9
Other/Combined technology[5]	30± 1 0	13 ± 8	16 ± 7	18 ± 9	2 ± 3	20 ± 9	1.6
Business studies	30 ± 5	11 ± 4	9 ± 3	4 ± 2	3 ± 2	43 ± 5	6.5
Classics	33 ± 7	- ± -	2 ± 4	2 ± -	- ± -	63 ± 7	1.0
History	57 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	6 ± 2	- ± -	23 ± 3	13.7
Religious education	22 ± 3	8 ± 2	8 ± 2	4 ± 1	2 ± 1	57 ± 4	14.2
Geography	53 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	5 ± 2	1 ± 1	25 ± 3	13.7
Other social studies	35 ± 5	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	2 ± 1	- ± 1	54 ± 6	4.9
Combined arts/humanities/social studies	5 ± 3	4 ± 2	7 ± 3	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	83 ± 5	5.3
Music	59 ± 5	15 ± 4	5 ± 2	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	13 ± 4	6.3
Drama	25 ± 4	10 ± 3	12 ± 3	6 ± 2	2 ± 1	45 ± 5	8.1
Art and design	54 ± 4	10 ± 3	7 ± 2	9 ± 3	1 ± 1	20 ± 4	9.3
Physical education	25 ± 3	31 ± 3	6 ± 2	13 ± 2	2 ± 1	22 ± 2	21.4
Careers education	2 ± 2	1 ± 2	3 ± 3	4 ± 4	3 ± 4	87 ± 7	1.5
PSHE[6]	1 ± -	1 ± -	2 ± 1	1 ± -	- ± -	95 ± 1	61.4
General studies	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	95 ± 2	7.1

Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Highest post A-level qualifications[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England

Percentages

	Degree[3]	BEd	PGCE	Cert Ed	Other Qual.	No Qual.	Total teachers (Thousand)
Citizenship	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	94 ± 2	9.0
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	32.8
Total[2, 7]	33 ± -	10 ± -	7 ± -	5 ± -	1 ± -	44 ± -	388.4

'—' = zero or less than 0.5.

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A-level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] Teachers qualified in other/combined technology are treated as qualified to teach design and technology or information and communication technology. Teachers qualified in design and technology or information and communication technology are treated as qualified to teach other/combined technology.

[6] Information and Communication Technology is abbreviated as ICT and Personal Social and Health Education is abbreviated as PSHE.

[7] 'Other' not included in total percentages.

Source:

Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2002.

Music: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much has been spent on the Music Standards Fund in each year since 2004; [164025]

(2) what funding the Music Standards Forum is planned to receive over the next two years. [164026]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* In respect of spending on the Music Standards Fund from 2003-04 I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 892W.

The Music Standards Fund grant for the next two years, that is, for 2008-09 and 2009-10, totals £82 million a year. Local authorities are free to add to the Music Standards Funds from their general education budgets, and many do.

No Outsiders Project

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions his Department has had with the No Outsiders Project; and if he will make a statement. [163835]

Jim Knight: The Department has no direct involvement in the project although a DCSF official has visited the project to observe a training session and an official has met the project lead who outlined the project's intentions.

The project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (an independent organisation, established by Royal Charter). Its aims are to assist in understanding the requirements of The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007. The No Outsiders Project does not affect what is taught in the school curriculum. This is governed by the Education Act 1996, as amended, which includes children learning the value of all relationships, with a particular emphasis on marriage and its importance for bringing up children.

Pupils: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what share each local authority will receive of the additional money for deprived pupils who attend schools in less deprived local authorities in each year from 2007-08 to 2011-12; how this money will be targeted on pupils with high assessed needs; and if he will make a statement. [165073]

Jim Knight: The following table sets out allocations of the £40.9 million of funding within dedicated schools grant (DSG) to support children from deprived backgrounds who attend schools in less deprived local authorities. The amounts are increases in funding for 2008-09, and will become part of each qualifying authority's DSG baseline for 2009-10 and 2010-11. No funding was allocated for 2007-08; funding for 2011-12 will be allocated under the next spending review. Decisions on the targeting of this funding will be taken by local authorities in consultation with their schools forums, but our strong expectation is that it will be directed to those schools with the most disadvantaged pupil intakes.

LEA name	£ million
Barnet	1.264
Bath and NE Somerset	0.317
Bedfordshire	1.219
Bexley	0.284
Bromley	0.518
Buckinghamshire	0.384
Cambridgeshire	0.362
Cheshire	2.637
Derbyshire	1.873
Dorset	0.314
East Riding of Yorkshire	1.171
Essex	1.574
Gloucestershire	1.023
Hampshire	0.768
Harrow	0.331

LEA name	£ million
Havering	0.077
Hertfordshire	0.046
Hillingdon	0.042
Kent	3.963
Kingston upon Thames	0.177
Leicestershire	1.335
Milton Keynes	1.558
North Somerset	0.690
North Yorkshire	1.493
Northamptonshire	2.484
Oxfordshire	0.147
Poole	0.011
Richmond upon Thames	0.277
Shropshire	0.309
Solihull	1.193
Somerset	0.951
South Gloucestershire	0.074
Staffordshire	2.459
Stockport	1.316
Suffolk	1.408
Surrey	0.048
Sutton	0.218
Swindon	0.564
Thurrock	0.243
Trafford	1.338
Warrington	0.875
Warwickshire	0.722
West Sussex	0.425
Wiltshire	0.178
Worcestershire	1.576
York	0.673

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority: Conferences

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what costs were incurred by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority for the hire of outside meeting rooms, broken down by *(a)* location and *(b)* general purpose of each meeting in 2006-07; how much has been incurred for the same purpose in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [163543]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) incurred costs of £2.65 million in 2006-07 and £1.62 million in the current financial year to October for external meetings. Total costs by location are shown below. Information on the purpose of each meeting could be collected only at disproportionate cost, but a significant number were stakeholder meetings on key areas of QCA's work, such as developing Diplomas and the national consultation on the Secondary Curriculum.

Location	Amount (£)
2006-07 (April-March)	
Bath	1,179
Belfast	48,244
Birmingham	128,396
Blackburn	15,366
Bolton	395
Bournemouth	1,992
Bradford	2,727
Brighton	3,188
Bristol	23,542
Bromley	617
Cambridge	2,233
Cardiff	817
Chelmsford	2,831
Coventry	186,135
Crewe	1,101
Doncaster	205
Dudley	609
Enfield	5,509
Exeter	271
Guildford	5,058
Hemel Hempstead	2,767
Ipswich	1,062
Kingston upon Thames	81,371
Lancaster	1,088
Leeds	19,932
Leicester	37,340
Liverpool	2,181
Llandudno	1,481
London	1,472,455
Manchester	57,208
Middlesbrough	3,000
Milton Keynes	124,694
Newcastle upon Tyne	9,517
Northampton	134,684
Nottingham	2,950
Oldham	208
Oxford	8,491
Preston	220
Reading	53,303
Redhill	411
Sheffield	27,277
Slough	29,086
Southampton	12,364
St. Albans	1,101
Stockport	60,186
Stoke-on -Trent	1,756
Swansea	705
Telford	8,572
Truro	1,109
Twickenham	3,631
Wakefield	270
Warrington	30,000
Watford	2,228
Wolverhampton	212
York	28,777
Total	2,652,052
2007-08 (April-October)	
Bath	500
Belfast	1,116
Birmingham	43,917
Blackburn	5,763
Bournemouth	31,319
Bristol	4,406
Bromley	1,050
Cambridge	589
Cardiff	1,150

Location	Amount (£)
Chelmsford	1,893
Chester	17,214
Coventry	99,774
Crewe	11,958
Croydon	304
Darlington	1,058
Derby	£0
Doncaster	316
Dudley	563
Exeter	3,542
Gloucester	2,535
Harrogate	1,256
Hemel Hempstead	2,218
Hereford	470
Huddersfield	240
Hull	2,400
Ipswich	5,145
Kingston upon Thames	54,395
Lancaster	6,711
Leeds	5,961
Liverpool	525
London	1,050,836
Manchester	11,118
Middlesbrough	3,800
Milton Keynes	29,245
Northampton	39,529
Norwich	1,946
Nottingham	979
Oxford	45,943
Peterborough	469
Plymouth	6,334
Preston	6,575
Reading	10,747
Redhill	8,234
Rochester	527
Salisbury	242
Sheffield	2,512
Southampton	3,350
Stockport	29,164
Stoke-on-Trent	1,558
Sunderland	316
Swansea	2,250
Taunton	4,479
Truro	898
Tunbridge Wells	251
Uxbridge	4,277
Walsall	193
Watford	530
Wolverhampton	735
Worcester	14,417
York	28,447
Total	1,618,989

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which London hotels have been used by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority for conferences and off-site meetings in each month since May 2007; at what cost; for what purpose; and if he will make a statement. [163351]

Jim Knight: The London hotels used by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in the months from May this year, and the monthly cost, are shown in the following table. Information on the purpose of each booking could be collected only at disproportionate cost, but a significant number of these events were related to the national consultation on the Secondary Curriculum.

Month 2007	Hotel	Cost (£)
May	City Inn Westminster	
	Flemings Mayfair Hotel	
	Hilton London Green Park	
	Holiday Inn Mayfair	
	Holiday Inn-London Bloomsbury	
	Hotel Russell	
	Le Meridien Piccadilly	
	Millennium Hotel (London Mayfair)	
	Novotel London Euston	
	The Chesterfield Mayfair	
	The Washington Mayfair	106,380
June	Bonnington Hotel London	
	Flemings Mayfair Hotel	
	Hilton London Green Park	
	Holiday Inn Mayfair	
	Hotel Russell	
	The Chesterfield Mayfair	43,567
July	Bonnington Hotel London	
	Copthorne Tara Hotel London Kensington	
	Flemings Mayfair Hotel	
	Hilton London Islington	
	Holiday Inn Mayfair	
	Hotel Russell	
	Langham Hotel	
	The Cavendish London	
	The Chesterfield Mayfair	
	The Park Lane Hotel	
	Thistle Hotel Marble Arch	70,623
August	Flemings Mayfair Hotel	
	Holiday Inn Mayfair	
	Millennium Hotel (London Mayfair)	
	The Chesterfield Mayfair	
	The Rubens At The Palace Hotel	12,239
Septeruber	Flemings Mayfair Hotel	
	Hilton London Green Park	
	Hilton London Islington	
	Hilton London Metropole	
	Holiday Inn Mayfair	
	Millennium Gloucester Hotel	
	Millennium Hotel (London Mayfair)	
	The Chesterfield Mayfair	
	The Cumberland Hotel	

Month 2007	Hotel	Cost (£)
	The Park Lane Hotel	74,919
October	Flemings Mayfair Hotel	
	Le Meridien Piccadilly	
	Radisson Edwardian Marlborough Hotel	
	Rubens at the Palace	
	The Chesterfield Mayfair	
	Thistle Hotel Westminster	18,802
Total		326,530

School Leaving

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of additional school places required in each local education authority area if the school leaving age is increased to 18 by 2013. [164109]

Jim Knight: The Department has not made detailed projections at a local level. Demographic changes will vary between local areas, of course, as will the nature of demand from young people, and local authorities will need to use their own projections to plan accordingly.

The proposed legislation is for the education and training leaving age, not the school leaving age, to be raised to 18 years. This will be done in two stages, with the age not being raised to 18 until 2015. We estimate that most of the additional places required will be in FE colleges, not in schools.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of those who did not stay on in education after the age of 16 years in 2007 had five or more A* to C grade GCSEs; and if he will make a statement. [163758]

Jim Knight: The Youth Cohort Study (YCS) for England and Wales provides information on the activities of young people who have completed compulsory education. For the cohort of 16-year-olds who completed their compulsory education in 2002/03, the YCS estimates that 31 per cent. of those who did not stay on in full-time education after the age of 16 had five or more A* - C grade GCSEs or equivalent.

There are very significant benefits to young people from staying in education and training until at least the age of 18. Staying in learning not only supports young people to get a better job; it also improves their life chances and equips them with the personal and social skills they need to thrive throughout their lives. That is why we have embarked on a series of education and training reforms which will ensure that there are suitable progression routes for all young people, and published on 5 November plans for raising the participation age to 18.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for the future of the educational maintenance allowance if the education leaving age is raised to *(a)* 17 and *(b)* 18 years; and if he will make a statement. [163760]

Jim Knight: Financial support for learning will be restructured when the compulsory participation age is raised to 18, and we are looking at a variety of methods to ensure that this is done in the most effective way to ensure young people are enabled to participate. In doing this we will build on the foundation of the educational maintenance allowance, and the views we gathered in the public consultation on "supporting young people to achieve."

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of 17-year-olds participated in education and training in 2006; what estimated proportion he expects to participate in *(a)* 2013, *(b)* 2015 and *(c)* 2020; and if he will make a statement; [163761]

(2) what *(a)* proportion and *(b)* number of (i) 16, (ii) 17 and (iii) 18-year-olds were in education and training in each year from 1997 to 2006; and what his estimate is of the equivalent figures in each year from 2007 to 2015. [163824]

Jim Knight: The figures provided are for 16, 17 and 18-year-olds in 'education and work based-learning' in each year from 1997 to 2006 in England, and will include some learners in part-time training. These figures are available as additional information with the Statistical First Release published by the Department in SFR 22/2007, please see the following web link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgatewav/DB/SFR/s000734/index.shtml

Proportion participating in education and work-based learning

	Academic age		
	16	17	18
1997/98	84.6	76.5	56.7
1998/99	83.7	75.9	55.8
1999/2000	84.6	76.8	56.0
2000/01	83.7	76.5	55.5
2001/02	82.6	73.9	53.8
2002/03	83.4	73.7	53.1
2003/04	83.7	74.7	52.7
2004/05	84.7	74.8	53.3
2005/06	86.0	76.1	54.4
2006/07 (provisional)	87.2	77.5	53.7

Snapshot numbers participating in education and work-based learning

	Academic age		
	16	17	18
1997/98	512,800	467,500	333,800
1998/99	497,700	458,300	338,400
1999/2000	506,500	453,500	334,800
2000/01	507,800	457,200	325,000
2001/02	523,300	453,300	323,700
2002/03	526,900	471,800	330,200
2003/04	541 ,900	477,000	342,500
2004/05	563,400	490,200	345,900
2005/06	564,100	512,000	361,700
2006/07 (provisional)	577,600	510,900	364,800

Projections of participation by 16 and 17-year-olds were published in the Green Paper "Raising Expectations: staying in education and training post-16". The following tables provide these by age and also include 18-year-olds. They are subject to change following receipt of up-to-date data and publication of the Learning and Skills Council's annual statement of priorities.

Projections of the proportion participating in education and work-based learning

	Academic age		
	16	*17*	*18*
2007/08	87.2	79.6	53.0
2008/09	88.6	80.2	54.1
2009/10	89.5	82.2	54.9
2010/11	91.3	83.9	56.1
2011/12	92.0	86.1	56.5
2012/13	92.4	87.6	57.2
2013/14	100.0	88.1	57.4
2014/15	100.0	94.1	57.3
2015/16	100.0	100.0	57.7

Projections of snapshot numbers participating in education and work-based learning

	Academic age		
	16	*17*	*18*
2007/08	582,000	532,000	354,000
2008/09	583,000	540,000	366,000
2009/10	568,000	546,000	374,000
2010/11	575,000	537,000	377,000
2011/12	570,000	547,000	367,000
2012/13	570,000	547,000	368,000
2013/14	619,000	548,000	364,000
2014/15	605,000	589,000	361,000
2015/16	594,000	612,000	366,000

The estimated proportion of 17-year-olds expected to participate in 2020 is 100 per cent.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimates he has made of the number of attendance orders which would be issued as a consequence of the raising of the education leaving age to *(a)* 17 and *(b)* 18 in each year from 2012 to 2016; and if he will make a statement. [163825]

Jim Knight: On 5 November we published a document setting out how our proposals to raise the participation age have developed since the consultation, and which aspects require legislation. This explains that enforcement action will be a last resort, but if a young person is not participating once suitable learning provision has been identified for them and appropriate support provided, the local authority will be able to issue an attendance notice, specifying precisely the provision the young person must attend and where and when they must do this. We estimate that very few young people will reach the stage of being issued with an attendance notice, as the focus of the policy will be on ensuring that there is an engaging and worthwhile learning programme for every young person and the right support, including financial support, to help them stay in learning and succeed. The estimates and projections in the initial regulatory impact assessment (which has been placed in the Library of the House) are being revised to reflect developments in the policy before being published in the impact assessment that will accompany the Education and Skills Bill.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment has been made of the likely economic costs to *(a)* individuals and *(b)* businesses of raising the education leaving age to 18 in relation to (i) foregone employment income and (ii) additional staff costs; and if he will make a statement. [163826]

Jim Knight: No individual will have to give up employment they already have as a result of our plans to raise the participation age to 18 from 2013. The first young people to be affected are currently in Year 6, so will have time to prepare. 16 and 17-year-olds cannot currently work more than 40 hours a week, and we do not propose to change this. An estimate of foregone productivity costs will be included in the impact assessment which will be published with the Education and Skills Bill.

Individuals will not incur additional staff costs. Some businesses may incur additional staffing costs if they choose to employ 18-year-olds, to whom they must pay a higher National Minimum Wage, rather than 16 and 17-year-olds. The estimates in the initial regulatory impact assessment published alongside the Green Paper (which was placed in the Library of the House) are being revised to reflect developments in the policy and will be published in an impact assessment alongside the Education and Skills Bill.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assumptions underlie his estimate of a £10 million cost of annual enforcement in relation to raising the education leaving age to 18; and if he will make a statement. [163827]

Jim Knight: An initial regulatory impact assessment was published alongside the "Raising Expectations: staying in education and training post-16" Green Paper in March. This included estimated costs of £6.7 million to local authorities of enforcing the duty. This was based on the enforcement system set out in the Green Paper and the assumption that it would be used as a very last resort, with the focus of the policy on ensuring that there is an engaging and worthwhile learning programme available for every young person, along with the right support for them to access it successfully. As we said in the Green Paper, we will continue to make sure local authorities are properly resourced to deliver the new requirements.

The Green Paper proposed that one option for enforcing attendance orders would be for an individual, on breach of the terms of such an order to be liable to prosecution. Court costs of £2.5 million and legal aid costs of between £0.25-0.7 million were therefore included in the initial RIA to reflect this. The estimates in the initial RIA are being revised to reflect developments in the policy before being published in an impact assessment alongside the Education and Skills Bill.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how he calculated the estimated additional annual costs to local authorities of implementing the plans to raise the education leaving age to 18; if he will break down the estimated costs by *(a)* registration system, *(b)* support and guidance to students and *(c)* enforcement; and if he will make a statement. [163828]

Jim Knight: An initial regulatory impact assessment was published alongside the "Raising Expectations: staying in education and training post-16" Green Paper in March, and copies were place in the Library of the

House. The estimated additional annual costs to local authorities were based on additional resources needed to track and contact young people not participating, provide help and support to address issues and re-engage in learning, and ultimately enforce the duty, through the system of attendance notices described in the Green Paper. No additional costs were forecast for registration, based on maintaining the Connexions Caseload Information System. An estimated cost of £50 million for additional tracking and support was included, and an estimated cost to local authorities of £6.7 million for enforcement (with other enforcement costs being incurred elsewhere). As we said in the Green Paper, we will make sure the local authorities are properly resourced to deliver the new requirements. The estimates in the initial regulatory impact assessment are being revised to reflect developments in the policy before being published in an impact assessment alongside the Education and Skills Bill.

School Leaving: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of places which will be required at educational establishments in Colchester constituency to cater for those between 16 and 18 years old if the school leaving age is to be raised to 18 years. [163742]

Jim Knight: The Department has not made detailed projections at a local level. Demographic changes will vary between local areas, of course, as will the nature of demand from young people, and local authorities will need to use their own projections to plan accordingly.

The proposed legislation is for the education and training leaving age, not the school leaving age, to be raised to 18 years. We estimate that most of the additional places required will be in FE colleges, not in schools.

School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the price elasticity of demand for school lunches; and if he will make a statement. [163770]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State has not made such an assessment. Responsibility for setting the price of a school lunch rests with the local authority or, where the budget has been delegated, the school.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of surplus places there were in *(a)* primary, *(b)* middle (where appropriate) and *(c)* upper schools in the last period for which figures are available. [164464]

Jim Knight: The latest published data are for January 2006 where there were:

(a) 513,738 surplus primary places (including middle deemed primary) representing almost 12 per cent. of total capacity

(b) 244,111 surplus secondary places (including middle deemed secondary) representing around 7 per cent. of total capacity.

We do not collate separate figures for middle schools. They are deemed to be either primary or secondary schools.

The January 2007 surplus places data will be published later this year.

Schools: Construction

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to introduce standards of sustainability for new school buildings. [164043]

Jim Knight: We have adapted the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) for schools and since 2005 it has been our requirement that major school building projects achieve a minimum BREEAM rating of 'very good'. To complement this requirement we are planning to introduce new standards for carbon emissions attributable to energy used within new school buildings.

The Department is also funding demonstration schemes that will achieve a BREEAM rating of 'excellent' and we have commissioned a study to investigate the potential implications of raising the target to 'excellent'. The outcomes of these initiatives work will inform future policy.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many assaults there were on adults in schools in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2006-07 which led to exclusions, broken down by (i) category of assault and (ii) local education authority; and if he will make a statement. [164441]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of permanent and fixed-period exclusions due to assault against an adult, broken down by local education authority, and covering the academic year 2004-05 has been placed in the House Of Commons Library.

Data are not collected centrally on the category of assault.

Data for 2006-07 will be available in June 2008.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the area cost adjustment factor is for schools in each local authority in England; what *(a)* assumptions and *(b)* data were used to determine these figures; and if he will make a statement. [163822]

Jim Knight: Under the spend plus methodology for distribution of Dedicated Schools Grant, there is no single set of area cost adjustment factors for schools by local authority in England. The level of Dedicated Schools Grant per pupil for each local authority will depend on the level of their spending on schools in 2005-06, which was closely related to the formula for Schools Formula Spending Share (FSS) for that year. The Schools FSS formula contained the area cost adjustment factors set out as follows in column 1. We have in 2006-07 and 2007-08 distributed funding for a

number of ministerial priorities including the greater personalisation of learning, more practical learning options for 14-16 pupils, work force reform and the increased entitlement to early years provision from 33 to 38 weeks, all of which used the ACA factors set out below in column 2. Funding for the ministerial priorities in the school funding settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11, which I announced to the House on 12 November also used the ACA factors in column 2.

Local authority	Column 1 2005-06 ACA	Column 2 2006-11 ACA
City of London	1.4764	1.4655
Camden	1.2825	1.2761
Greenwich	1.2825	1.2761
Hackney	1.2825	1.2761
Hammersmith and Fulham	1.2825	1.2761
Islington	1.2825	1.2761
Kensington and Chelsea	1.2825	1.2761
Lambeth	1.2825	1.2761
Lewisham	1.2825	1.2761
Southwark	1.2825	1.2761
Tower Hamlets	1.2825	1.2761
Wandsworth	1.2825	1.2761
Westminster	1.2825	1.2761
Barking and Dagenham	1.0929	1.0886
Barnet	1.1593	1.1543
Bexley	1.0929	1.0886
Brent	1.1593	1.1543
Bromley	1.0929	1.0886
Croydon	1.0929	1.0886
Ealing	1.1593	1.1543
Enfield	1.0929	1.0886
Haringey	1.0929	1.0886
Harrow	1.1593	1.1543
Havering	1.0929	1.0886
Hillingdon	1.1593	1.1543
Hounslow	1.1593	1.1543
Kingston upon Thames	1.1593	1.1543
Merton	1.1593	1.1543
Newham	1.0929	1.0886
Redbridge	1.0929	1.0886
Richmond upon Thames	1.1593	1.1543
Sutton	1.1593	1.1543
Waltham Forest	1.0929	1.0886
Birmingham	1.0246	1.0168
Coventry	1.0246	1.0168
Dudley	1.0246	1.0168
Sandwell	1.0246	1.0168
Solihull	1.0246	1.0168
Walsall	1.0246	1.0168
Wolverhampton	1.0246	1.0168
Knowsley	1	1
Liverpool	1	1
St. Helens	1	1
Sefton	1	1
Wirral	1	1
Bolton	1.0179	1.019
Bury	1.0179	1.019
Manchester	1.0179	1.019
Oldham	1.0179	1.019
Rochdale	1.0179	1.019
Salford	1.0179	1.019
Stockport	1.0179	1.019
Tameside	1.0179	1.019
Trafford	1.0179	1.019
Wigan	1.0179	1.019
Barnsley	1	1
Doncaster	1	1
Rotherham	1	1
Sheffield	1	1
Bradford	1.0086	1.0074
Calderdale	1.0086	1.0074
Kirklees	1.0086	1.0074
Leeds	1.0086	1.0074
Wakefield	1.0086	1.0074
Gateshead	1	1
Newcastle upon Tyne	1	1
North Tyneside	1	1
South Tyneside	1	1
Sunderland	1	1
Isles of Scilly	1.5	1.5
Bath and North East Somerset	1.0377	1.04
City of Bristol	1.0377	1.04
North Somerset	1.0377	1.04
South Gloucestershire	1.0377	1.04
Hartlepool	1	1
Middlesbrough	1	1
Redcar and Cleveland	1	1
Stockton-on-Tees	1	1
City of Kingston-upon-Hull	1	1
East Riding of Yorkshire	1	1
North East Lincolnshire	1	1
North Lincolnshire	1	1
North Yorkshire	1	1
York	1	1
Bedfordshire	1.0563	1.0558
Luton	1.0563	1.0558
Buckinghamshire	1.0971	1.0957
Milton Keynes	1.0916	1.0915
Derbyshire	1	1
Derby	1	1
Dorset	1	1
Poole	1	1
Bournemouth	1	1
Durham	1	1
Darlington	1	1
East Sussex	1.017	1.0137
Brighton and Hove	1.017	1.0137
Hampshire	1.048	1.0449
Portsmouth	1.048	1.0449
Southampton	1.048	1.0449
Leicestershire	1.0019	1.0057
Leicester	1.0019	1.0057

Local authority	Column 1 2005-06 ACA	Column 2 2006-11 ACA
Rutland	1.0019	1.0057
Staffordshire	1	1
Stoke on Trent	1	1
Wiltshire	1.0321	1.0265
Swindon	1.0321	1.0265
Bracknell Forest	1.142	1.1361
Windsor and Maidenhead	1.142	1.1361
West Berkshire	1.1339	1.1367
Reading	1.1339	1.1367
Slough	1.142	1.1361
Wokingham	1.1339	1.1367
Cambridgeshire	1.0506	1.0493
Peterborough	1.0506	1.0493
Cheshire	1.0217	1.0169
Halton	1.0217	1.0169
Warrington	1.0217	1.0169
Devon	1	1
Plymouth	1	1
Torbay	1	1
Essex	1.038	1.0358
Southend	1.0133	1.0117
Thurrock	1.0887	1.0854
Herefordshire	1	1
Worcestershire	1	1
Kent	1.0252	1.021
Medway	1.0145	1.0101
Lancashire	1	1
Blackburn	1	1
Blackpool	1	1
Nottinghamshire	1	1
Nottingham City	1	1
Shropshire	1	1
The Wrekin	1	1
Cornwall	1	1
Cumbria	1	1
Gloucestershire	1.0198	1.0199
Hertfordshire	1.0988	1.0953
Isle of Wight Council	1.048	1.0449
Lincolnshire	1	1
Norfolk	1	1
Northamptonshire	1.0226	1.0189
Northumberland	1	1
Oxfordshire	1.0831	1.075
Somerset	1	1
Suffolk	1.007	1
Surrey	1.142	1.1361
Warwickshire	1.0275	1.0209
West Sussex	1.0396	1.0228

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list in tabular form the value of the guaranteed per pupil unit of funding for each local education authority in order of the largest sum payable downwards in the latest period for which figures are available. [164827]

Jim Knight: The guaranteed unit of funding per pupil for each local education authority for years 2008-09 to 2010-11 is provided in the following table. 2008-09 figures are ordered from the largest sum payable downwards.

Local authority	2008-09	2009-10	£ 2010-11
City of London	7,362	7,603	7,871
Tower Hamlets	6,289	6,523	6,792
Hackney	6,170	6,409	6,682
Camden	6,161	6,373	6,618
Lambeth	5,848	6,075	6,337
Islington	5,812	6,043	6,310
Kensington and Chelsea	5,757	5,956	6,186
Southwark	5,756	5,961	6,200
Hammersmith and Fulham	5,635	5,831	6,059
Lewisham	5,556	5,751	5,981
Westminster	5,439	5,650	5,893
Greenwich	5,361	5,576	5,827
Wandsworth	5,146	5,376	5,639
Newham	5,071	5,259	5,478
Haringey	4,987	5,161	5,364
Brent	4,894	5,102	5,342
Ealing	4,832	5,007	5,213
Hounslow	4,651	4,822	5,024
Waltham Forest	4,584	4,747	4,940
Manchester	4,571	4,731	4,919
Barking and Dagenham	4,563	4,725	4,917
Barnet	4,559	4,723	4,917
Harrow	4,507	4,669	4,862
Nottingham	4,500	4,658	4,843
Merton	4,452	4,612	4,801
Birmingham	4,448	4,605	4,790
Enfield	4,437	4,596	4,785
Slough	4,404	4,582	4,792
Bristol, City of	4,366	4,520	4,702
Hillingdon	4,361	4,519	4,709
Liverpool	4,320	4,484	4,675
Richmond upon Thames	4,311	4,467	4,654
Salford	4,309	4,462	4,642
Croydon	4,267	4,432	4,627
Reading	4,260	4,428	4,627
Kingston upon Thames	4,256	4,410	4,5[illegible]
Blackburn with Darwen	4,254	4,405	4,583
Sutton	4,253	4,409	4,596
Luton	4,251	4,402	4,583
Knowsley	4,236	4,414	4,621
Halton	4,226	4,376	4,555
Redbridge	4,214	4,380	4,575
Sandwell	4,214	4,372	4,557
Middlesbrough	4,182	4,330	4,506
Rochdale	4,171	4,321	4,500
Kingston upon Hull, City of	4,168	4,317	4,493
Leicester	4,151	4,310	4,497
Bexley	4,151	4,301	4,482
Wolverhampton	4,145	4,309	4,502
Thurrock	4,141	4,291	4,470
Havering	4,137	4,287	4,468
North East Lincolnshire	4,134	4,281	4,455
Oldham	4,118	4,271	4,453
Southampton	4,117	4,265	4,441

Local authority	2008-09	2009-10	£ 2010-11
Coventry	4,110	4,258	4,433
Bradford	4,107	4,275	4,470
Brighton and Hove	4,103	4,249	4,424
Peterborough	4,098	4,246	4,422
Newcastle upon Tyne	4,096	4,256	4,443
South Tyneside	4,092	4,241	4,417
Milton Keynes	4,080	4,231	4,413
Stoke-on-Trent	4,070	4,215	4,388
Portsmouth	4,061	4,207	4,381
Isle of Wight	4,051	4,198	4,373
Rotherham	4,045	4,190	4,363
Windsor and Maidenhead	4,040	4,193	4,378
Medway	4,034	4,179	4,351
Hartlepool	4,029	4,173	4,345
Southend-on-Sea	4,026	4,171	4,344
Walsall	4,023	4,183	4,371
Bracknell Forest	4,017	4,177	4,367
East Sussex	3,997	4,141	4,313
Sunderland	3,990	4,137	4,311
Redcar and Cleveland	3,990	4,133	4,305
Gateshead	3,986	4,129	4,300
West Berkshire	3,984	4,137	4,321
Tameside	3,983	4,126	4,298
Blackpool	3,982	4,125	4,296
Durham	3,982	4,125	4,296
Bolton	3,978	4,125	4,301
Derby	3,978	4,120	4,291
St. Helens	3,977	4,120	4,290
Surrey	3,976	4,129	4,313
Bromley	3,966	4,123	4,311
Stockton-on-Tees	3,960	4,102	4,272
Dudley	3,949	4,092	4,263
Wigan	3,948	4,091	4,262
Kirklees	3,947	4,093	4,266
Sheffield	3,947	4,096	4,272
Darlington	3,944	4,086	4,255
Doncaster	3,941	4,083	4,252
Kent	3,938	4,081	4,251
Wirral	3,937	4,089	4,269
Lancashire	3,927	4,069	4,238
Leeds	3,926	4,068	4,237
Bury	3,926	4,068	4,238
Essex	3,924	4,067	4,238
Torbay	3,922	4,064	4,233
Sefton	3,917	4,058	4,227
Calderdale	3,912	4,053	4,222
Telford and Wrekin	3,911	4,052	4,219
Stockport	3,902	4,043	4,211
Buckinghamshire	3,899	4,042	4,216
Rutland	3,898	4,039	4,208
Hertfordshire	3,896	4,039	4,212
Bath and North East Somerset	3,891	4,033	4,204
Plymouth	3,889	4,030	4,198
Wakefield	3,881	4,022	4,190
Cheshire	3,880	4,021	4,190
West Sussex	3,877	4,018	4,186
Oxfordshire	3,870	4,011	4,182
North Yorkshire	3,854	3,993	4,160
Trafford	3,852	3,992	4,160
Barnsley	3,848	3,987	4,154
Wokingham	3,844	4,005	4,198
Nottinghamshire	3,842	3,981	4,148
North Tyneside	3,836	3,974	4,140
Cumbria	3,831	3,970	4,137
Derbyshire	3,825	3,964	4,130
Bournemouth	3,825	3,964	4,130
Hampshire	3,824	3,964	4,132
North Lincolnshire	3,822	3,961	4,127
Warrington	3,819	3,958	4,125
Bedfordshire	3,817	3,961	4,134
Norfolk	3,807	3,945	4,111
York	3,801	3,939	4,103
Dorset	3,799	3,938	4,104
Lincolnshire	3,795	3,933	4,099
Warwickshire	3,789	3,927	4,093
Cambridgeshire	3,787	3,926	4,093
Northamptonshire	3,785	3,923	4,088
Staffordshire	3,776	3,913	4,078
Swindon	3,775	3,913	4,079
Suffolk	3,763	3,900	4,065
North Somerset	3,757	3,895	4,061
Somerset	3,752	3,889	4,052
Solihull	3,750	3,887	4,052
Gloucestershire	3,744	3,881	4,046
Cornwall	3,742	3,879	4,043
Worcestershire	3,729	3,865	4,028
Poole	3,724	3,860	4,024
East Riding of Yorkshire	3,715	3,851	4,015
Shropshire	3,715	3,850	4,013
Wiltshire	3,713	3,849	4,013
Northumberland	3,711	3,850	4,016
Devon	3,707	3,843	4,005
Herefordshire	3,687	3,830	4,002
South Gloucestershire	3,647	3,781	3,944
Leicestershire	3,596	3,728	3,888

The main influences on the differences between authorities are relative deprivation; area costs; and the authority's historic spending above or below its assessment.

Schools: Fruit

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on providing fresh fruit in schools for four to six-year-olds in each financial year since 1997-98 for which figures are available. [162243]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The lottery provided £16 million towards the original pilots of the National School Fruit Scheme between 2000 and 2002. Lottery funding also provided £42

million to support scaling-up of the original pilots across five Government regions between 2002 and 2004.

The Department of Health spent £0.75 million in 2001-02 and £0.3 million in 2002-03 on administering and evaluating the National School Fruit Scheme pilots.

The national rollout of the scheme to all LEA infant, primary and special schools across England was completed at the end of 2004 and in the year 2004-05 the Department of Health spent £23.66 million on the scheme. In 2005-06 the scheme, now fully funded by the Department of Health, cost £37.41 million and in 2006-07 £36.21million.

Schools: Immigrants

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the impact of inward migration on schools in Chipping Barnet constituency over the last 10 years. [164618]

Jim Knight: Local authorities are responsible for balancing the demand and supply of school places in their area. They have a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places, the needs of the local community are served, and good quality education is provided in a cost-effective way.

The Department collects information from each local authority on the number of school places and the number of pupils on roll via an annual survey. Local authorities also provide area-wide forecasts of pupil numbers at primary and secondary levels. The earliest data available are for 2003 and the most recent are for 2007.

The following table shows the number of school places, pupil numbers and the level of surplus places in Chipping Barnet for the past five years.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Primary					
Capacity[1]	8121	8238	8238	8247	8053
NOR[2]	7401	7543	7538	7453	7630
Surplus[3]	720	695	700	794	423
Secondary					
Capacity[1]	7447	7460	7460	7460	8020
NOR[2]	7340	7350	7378	7496	7555
Surplus[3]	107	110	82	0	465

[1] Capacity is the number of school places as at January
[2] NOR relates to the number of pupils on roll as at January
[3] Surplus relates to the difference between the capacity of a school and the number of pupils on roll

Schools: Parents

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the average number of meetings per pupil per year that schools hold with parents or guardians to discuss children's performance; [164522]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of schools using email to provide feedback to parents on pupil performance. [164523]

Jim Knight: The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005 specify that head teachers are responsible for ensuring they send a written report to parents on their children once during the school year, or to the pupil where they are aged 18 or over.

Many schools are already reporting on a termly basis to parents about their child's progress.

The Department has just undertaken a survey on parental involvement in children's education. Report writing and analysis are under way. I anticipate the report will be published in spring 2008, and will indicate what proportion of parents have talked about how well their child is doing with teachers at regular events such as parents' evenings, parents meetings or review days arranged by the school.

Many schools use technology such as email as part of wider school strategies for parental engagement or behaviour. The 'Harnessing Technology in Schools Survey' (National Centre for Social Research/Becta, July 2007) found that

"although paper messages remained the predominant mode of communication with parents...70 per cent. of primary schools and 86 per cent. of secondary schools used emails to communicate with parents".

Schools: Sports

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the average number of hours spent on school sports per pupil in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each year since 1996-97. [163440]

Kevin Brennan: The annual PE and School Sport Survey was introduced in 2003/04 and collects data relating to participation in PE and School Sport.

Over the last four years, the percentage of pupils who took part in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport each week is as follows:

	Primary	Secondary	Percentage Total
2003/04	52	73	62
2004/05	64	75	69
2005/06	82	78	80
2006/07	91	80	86

Prior to 2003/04, no data were collected relating to the amount of time spent on PE and school sport.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what annual improvement targets he has set for failing schools in 2007-08, broken down by school. [164527]

Jim Knight: The statutory duty for setting annual pupil performance targets rests with the Governing Body of every maintained school. Each school agrees their targets with the School Improvement Partner (SIP) who provides support and challenge to ensure the targets reflect the best ambition for the progress of all the pupils in the school. We expect local authorities (LAs) to review the targets for all of their schools to ensure that they are setting goals which are both

ambitious and achievable. In the case of schools judged to be in need of special measures by Ofsted, the LA and the SIP will be closely involved in the annual target setting process with the head teacher and the Governing Body to ensure that the targets will support the school's improvement plan.

The number of schools in special measures has fallen from 515 in 1997/08 to 246 at the end of the summer term this year. As part of the comprehensive spending review we have announced new targets for schools and LAs which will place a focus on improving progression throughout the education system and further reduce failure and underperformance.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools were closed due to poor performance on instruction from Ministers in each year since 1992. [164528]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State's power to close a school under section 68 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (and prior to that section 19 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) has not so far been used. It is a reserve power, applicable only to schools that Ofsted has judged to require special measures, and would only be used in exceptional circumstances.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proposals he plans to bring forward to implement the Prime Minister's announcements in relation to failing schools of 31 October; and what powers Ministers have to close failing schools. [164767]

Jim Knight: The forthcoming Children's Plan will set out the Government's ambition for school improvement and how the Department for Children Schools and Families will drive the necessary changes across the schools system.

The Secretary of State has existing powers under section 68 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to direct a local authority to close a school which is in special measures on a date specified in the direction.

Secondary Education: Admissions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of secondary schools were oversubscribed for admissions in 2007. [163629]

Jim Knight: The school admissions process is coordinated by local authorities in partnership with schools in their area. Information on the number of applications made for secondary school places is not collected centrally.

The annual survey of school places provides information on the number of schools that are full to capacity or over capacity. Data from the 2007 survey show there are 1,045 secondary schools with no spare capacity—31 per cent. of all secondary schools in England.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average SATs test scores by special educational needs pupils taught in mainstream schools were in each of the last 10 years; [163098]

(2) how any *(a)* A-level, *(b)* GCSE, *(c)* Key Stage 3 SATs and *(d)* Key Stage 2 SATs marks were changed as a result of being re-marked, broken down by (i) subject and (ii) examination board in each year since 2001; [163560]

(3) how many *(a)* A-level, *(b)* GCSE, *(c)* Key Stage 3 SATs and *(d)* Key Stage 2 SATs marks were appealed and re-marked in each year since 2001, broken down by (i) subject and (ii) examination board; [163559]

(4) which are the 200 lowest performing secondary schools in terms of *(a)* GCSE results, *(b)* value added and *(c)* the number of pupils leaving with no GCSE grade A to C passes over the last 10 years; [163201]

(5) which are the 200 lowest performing primary schools in terms of *(a)* SATs results and *(b)* value added over the last 10 years; [163200]

(6) what marks have been required in Key Stage *(a)* 2 and *(b)* 3 tests in (i) English and (ii) mathematics to achieve a level (A) 4 and (B) 5 in each year from 1997 to 2007; and if he will make a statement; [163181]

(7) what percentage score has been required for a GCSE in mathematics at grade C for each examination board in each year from 1997 to 2007; [163180]

(8) how many maintained schools have refused to have their pupils take the Key Stage 3 English tests; and if he will make a statement; [163445]

(9) what percentage of the Key Stage 3 literacy tests were marked by overseas markers in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [163446]

(10) what his latest estimate is of the number of *(a)* maintained and *(b)* independent schools which introduced (i) international GCSEs and (ii) the International Baccalaureate in each year from 1997 to 2007; and if he will make a statement; [163452]

(11) how many modular exams for *(a)* AS levels and *(b)* A2 levels have been re-taken at least once by students in each year from 1997 to 2007; and if he will make a statement; [163453]

(12) how many children took *(a)* GCSEs and *(b)* A-levels in Tower Hamlets local authority area in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007; and how many of them achieved (A) five or more A* to C GCSEs and (B) better than or equal to one A grade and two B grades at A-level; and if he will make a statement; [163309]

(13) what proportion of pupils taking GCSEs secured a grade A*-C in both English and mathematics in each year since 1990; and if he will make a statement; [163544]

(14) how many and what proportion of children educated in maintained schools in each inner London education authority achieved at least three A-levels at A grade in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement; [163549]

(15) what proportion of year 11 pupils have taken five or more GCSE examinations in each year from 1990 to 2007; and if he will make a statement; [163547]

(16) if he will list the 20 English schools with the worst GCSE success rates in 2007 on the basis of *(a)* five A*-C at GCSE and *(b)* five A*-C at GCSE including mathematics and English; [163569]

(17) if he will list by local authority area all schools which achieved less than 30 per cent. five A*-C in GCSEs including mathematics and English in 2007; [163570]

(18) which schools in which fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils have achieved five A*-C grade GCSEs including English and mathematics in each year since 2002 have been rated as *(a)* excellent and *(b)* good by Ofsted. [164131]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The data required for PQs 163569 and 163570 are not yet published. They will be available from the Library in January 2008.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of the proportion of young people who are expected to start the new vocational diplomas in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [164443]

Jim Knight: Figures put forward by the successful consortia applying through the Gateway Process indicate that there will be approximately 39,000 places available for learners on the five new 14-19 diplomas that will be available from September 2008. This represents around 1.2 per cent. of the total 14-19 population in that year, and is the first step on a phased roll-out of the new diplomas that will culminate in a national entitlement from 2013.

Specialist Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools are designated high performing specialist schools. [164019]

Jim Knight: At re-designation specialist schools that meet certain published criteria are designated high performing specialist schools (HPSS). The published criteria for 2007 were:

(a) An overall Grade 1 Ofsted marking or

(b) An overall Grade 2 Ofsted marking with a Grade 1 in "Achievement and Standards" or

(c) An overall Grade 2 marking and with 60 per cent. or above 5+ A*-C GCSE including English and Maths in the 2006 KS4 results or

(d) An overall Grade 2 marking and in top 20 per cent. CVA national ranking and a minimum 35 per cent. 5+ A*-C GCSE including English and Maths in the 2006 KS4 results.

Since 2005, 393 schools have been designated HPSS. HPSS schools are an important element in our drive to build system-wide reform. They have opportunities to take on additional roles working with other schools and the community.

The published list of HPSS can be viewed at:
www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/specialistschools/

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons there are differences in teacher pay rates between local authorities in England; and if he will make a statement. [163823]

Jim Knight: There are four long-established teacher pay areas, covering Inner London, Outer London, the "Fringe" (extending to certain parts of the Home Counties), and the rest of England and Wales (as defined in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document). Each of the four pay areas has, since 2004, had its own pay scales. The differences between pay scales broadly relate to differing economic circumstances linked to labour market conditions and cost of living pressures. Changes to the actual pay scales follow recommendations made by the independent School Teachers' Review Body.

Any other differences that may arise between average pay rates in local authorities will be down to differences in the composition of the teaching work force, and, in the case of the limited number of authorities which have both 'Fringe' and England and Wales pay areas within their borders, the composition of the pay areas.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on teachers' pay from September 2008. [165076]

Jim Knight: We have received the School Teachers' Review Body's detailed recommendations covering teachers' pay from 2008. We are not in a position to announce our response until we have considered them further within the wider context of the Government's approach to public sector pay.

Teachers: Physical Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many dedicated physical education teachers have *(a)* been appointed and *(b)* left schools in each of the last four years; [164027]

(2) how many dedicated physical education teachers are employed in England. [164028]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of teachers appointed to and leaving schools by subject area is not collected centrally

The following table provides the number of full-time teachers employed in maintained secondary schools by the highest post A-level qualification held in the subjects they teach, including physical education, for November 2002 which is the latest information available.

Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Highest post A-level qualifications[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England

Percentages

	Degree[3]	BEd	PGCE	Cert Ed	Other Qual.	No Qual.	Total teachers (Thousand)
Mathematics	42 ± 3	15 ± 2	9 ± 2	7 ± 1	2 ± 1	24 ± 2	28.2
English	51 ± 3	15 ± 2	7 ± 1	6 ± 1	1 ± 1	20 ± 2	29.4
Combined/General science	62 ± 3	12 ± 2	10 ± 2	4 ± 1	1 ± 1	11 ± 2	28.3
Biology[4]	71 ± 5	7 ± 3	11 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± 1	7 ± 3	5.6
Chemistry[4]	72 ± 5	6 ± 3	12 ± 4	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	7 ± 3	5.2
Physics[4]	63 ± 6	11 ± 4	15 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± -	8 ± 3	4.7
Other sciences[4]	10 ± 6	4 ± 4	5 ± 4	- ± -	- ± -	80 ± 8	1.6
French	54 ± 3	7 ± 2	10 ± 2	3 ± 1	2 ± 1	23 ± 3	16.0
German	47 ± 5	6 ± 3	13 ± 4	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	30 ± 5	6.9
Spanish	37 ± 7	8 ± 4	19 ± 6	- ± -	3 ± 2	33 ± 7	3.6
Other modern languages	18 ± 8	- ± -	9 ± 7	- ± -	3 ± 4	71 ±10	1.4
Design and technology[5]	26 ± 3	20 ± 3	7 ± 2	21 ± 3	2 ± 1	24 ± 3	20.9
ICT[5, 6]	13 ± 2	6 ± 1	8 ± 2	2 ± 1	3 ± 1	69 ± 3	18.9
Other/Combined technology[5]	30± 1 0	13 ± 8	16 ± 7	18 ± 9	2 ± 3	20 ± 9	1.6
Business studies	30 ± 5	11 ± 4	9 ± 3	4 ± 2	3 ± 2	43 ± 5	6.5
Classics	33 ± 7	- ± -	2 ± 4	2 ± -	- ± -	63 ± 7	1.0
History	57 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	6 ± 2	- ± -	23 ± 3	13.7
Religious education	22 ± 3	8 ± 2	8 ± 2	4 ± 1	2 ± 1	57 ± 4	14.2
Geography	53 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	5 ± 2	1 ± 1	25 ± 3	13.7
Other social studies	35 ± 5	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	2 ± 1	- ± 1	54 ± 6	4.9
Combined arts/humanities/social studies	5 ± 3	4 ± 2	7 ± 3	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	83 ± 5	5.3
Music	59 ± 5	15 ± 4	5 ± 2	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	13 ± 4	6.3
Drama	25 ± 4	10 ± 3	12 ± 3	6 ± 2	2 ± 1	45 ± 5	8.1
Art and design	54 ± 4	10 ± 3	7 ± 2	9 ± 3	1 ± 1	20 ± 4	9.3
Physical education	25 ± 3	31 ± 3	6 ± 2	13 ± 2	2 ± 1	22 ± 2	21.4
Careers education	2 ± 2	1 ± 2	3 ± 3	4 ± 4	3 ± 4	87 ± 7	1.5
PSHE[6]	1 ± -	1 ± -	2 ± 1	1 ± -	- ± -	95 ± 1	61.4
General studies	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	95 ± 2	7.1
Citizenship	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	94 ± 2	9.0
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	32.8
Total[2, 7]	33 ± -	10 ± -	7 ± -	5 ± -	1 ± -	44 ± -	388.4

'—' = zero or less than 0.5.

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A-level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] Teachers qualified in other/combined technology are treated as qualified to teach design and technology or information and communication technology. Teachers qualified in design and technology or information and communication technology are treated as qualified to teach other/combined technology.

[6] Information and Communication Technology is abbreviated as ICT and Personal Social and Health Education is abbreviated as PSHE.

[7] 'Other' not included in total percentages.

Source:

Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2002.

Truancy: Special Educational Needs

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of unauthorised absences pupils with *(a)* special educational needs and *(b)* a physical disability accounted for in each year since 2001 for which records exist. [164458]

Jim Knight: The available information is shown in the following table.

Information on whether a pupil has a physical disability is not collected centrally.

Maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies[1]: Pupil absence by special educational needs (SEN), 2005/06, England

		Total Percentage of half days missed[3]		
	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[2]	Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence
Pupils with statements of SEN	71,700	8.99	2.48	11.47
Pupils with SEN without statements	501,340	8.80	2.89	11.69
Of which:				
Pupils at School Action Plus	153,450	10.05	4.05	14.10
Pupils at School Action	347,880	8.25	2.38	10.63
Pupils with SEN (with and without statements)	573,030	8.82	2.84	11.66
Pupils with no identified SEN	2,410,010	6.30	1.06	7.35
Total[4]	2,983,040	6.82	1.42	8.24

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Pupil numbers are as at January 2006. Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration. Excludes boarders.
[4] Includes pupil enrolments for whom information on SEN was missing.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Trust Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list each *(a)* trust school and *(b)* foundation school in England as at (i) 1 September 2006 and (ii) 1 September 2007; and if he will make a statement. [164020]

Jim Knight: Copies of the lists of foundation and trust schools existing on the dates specified have been lodged with the House Library. To produce this information, it was necessary to reconcile two separate databases carrying with it a small margin for error.

The regulations of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 governing trust schools came into force in May 2007 and according to our records there were no trust schools set up under that legislation before August 2007.

Young People: Devon

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds in Devon are in *(a)* education, *(b)* training and *(c)* employment. [164107]

Jim Knight: The Department's estimates of the number and proportion of young people participating in education, training and employment cannot be disaggregated to local authority level. However, we can give an indication of the activity of 16 to 18-year-olds from information collected by the Connexions service. The following table shows the proportion of young people in Devon at the end of 2006 who were known by Connexions to be in *(a)* education, *(b)* training and *(c)* employment.

	Percentage of all 16 to 18-year-olds
Education	64.9
Training	10.5
Employment	19.0

Young people who are in both work and learning are recorded according to their main activity.

It should be noted that information on young people in education and training provided by Connexions is collected on a different basis from that published by the Department, and does not, therefore, give the same totals.

Young People: Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 16 to 18-year-olds were recorded as not being in education, employment or training in each of the last 10 years. [164245]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* The following table shows the numbers and proportions of young people of academic age 16 to 18 who were estimated to be not in education, employment or training for each year since 1997.

16-18-year-olds not in education, employment of training, end year 1997 to 2006

	Number	Proportion (Percentage)
1997	154,300	8.5
1998	170,300	9.4
1999	144,500	8.1
2000	162,900	9.1
2001	175,900	9.5
2002	180,200	9.5
2003	178,700	9.2
2004	190,000	9.7
2005	217,100	10.9
2006	206,200	10.3

These figures are available in the Statistical First Release (SFR) 22/2007, published by the Department at the following web link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgatewav/DB/SFR/s000734/sfr22_2007.pdf.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Business and University Collaboration

15. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the economic value of collaboration between universities and business over the last 10 years. [164268]

Ian Pearson: University business collaboration is an important driver of innovation and one we have in, for example, the Higher Education Innovation Fund and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships. It is not practical to put a single number estimate on the economic value of this activity, but Funding Councils collect data from universities through the Higher Education Business and Community Interaction Survey, which shows significant increases over recent years in key measures of collaboration.

Skills

16. **Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to improve the global competitiveness of the UK skills base. [164269]

Bill Rammell: To succeed in the global economy we must ensure that our work force has world-class skills, carry out world-class research, and drive innovation in all areas. That is why we are committed becoming a world leader on skills by 2020, and to making real progress towards that ambition by 2011. To support that, Government investment in further education and skills will increase by 7 per cent. in real terms between 2007-08 and 2010-11.

Higher Education

17. **Chris Mole:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made in encouraging greater participation in higher education by people from under-represented groups. [164271].

18. **Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made in encouraging greater participation in higher education by people from under-represented groups. [164272]

Mr. Denham: The latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency show that for 2005/06, the proportion of young entrants to full-time first degrees coming from lower socio-economic class backgrounds stands at 29.1 per cent.—up from 27.9 per cent. in 2002/03. Furthermore, the Department's own, published evidence shows that the proportion of young people from lower socio-economic class backgrounds participating in higher education has risen from 17.6 per cent. in 2002/03 to 19.9 per cent. in 2005/06.

Part-time Students

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the decision to withdraw funding from institutions for equivalent or lower qualifications students in the part-time educational sector. [164263]

Bill Rammell: We have asked the Funding Council to reduce funding for equivalent level qualifications by £100 million by 2010-11. The council is consulting on the how to implement this policy. The entire £100 million sum will be recycled within the higher education sector. Much of it will be available to support part-time provision for those already in the workplace who do not yet have a higher education qualification.

Government Research Establishments

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make a statement on progress made in knowledge transfer between research institutions and industry as part of the EU Lisbon Agenda. [164255]

Bill Rammell: A number of initiatives have taken place in line with the Lisbon strategy. For example, the European Competitiveness Council adopted a proposal for an Intellectual Property Charter for Europe in June. This aims to create a level playing field for industry and academia across Europe on the processes for IP management and exploitation.

National Institute for Medical Research

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what consultation was undertaken with *(a)* Camden council and *(b)* local residents on the proposed move of the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, to central London. [162695]

Ian Pearson: The MRC consulted Camden council on three occasions about the posaibility of moving the NIMR to the National Temperance hospital site on Hampstead Road. To date there has been no formal consultation with Camden council or local residents on the proposals for the move of the NIMR to the site adjacent to the British Library. Should the BLISS consortium (MRC, CRUK, Wellcome Trust and UCL) be successful in acquiring the site, the consultation and planning process would naturally need to be followed.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what the proposed time scale is for the move of the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, to central London; [162696]

(2) what progress has been made on the proposed move of the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, to central London; and if he will make a statement; [162697]

(3) what plans he has for the future use of the Temperance hospital site; and if he will make a statement; [162709]

(4) what the most recent estimated cost is of the proposed move of the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, to central London. [162694]

Ian Pearson: A consortium of the Medical Research Council, Cancer Research UK, the Wellcome Trust and University College London have submitted a bid to purchase a site adjacent to the British Library. Detailed proposals for the move and its cost will be developed once the outcome of this bid is known, including, if necessary, alternative proposals for the future use of the National Temperance hospital site. MRC envisages that the relocation of the National Institute of Medical Research might be completed by 2013.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which organisations are planned to be housed alongside the National Institute for Medical Research in the event of a move to the British Library site; how much each will contribute to set-up costs; what floor space area each will occupy; and if he will make a statement. [162742]

Ian Pearson: The MRC, Cancer Research UK, the Wellcome Trust and University College London have created a partnership to build a new international centre for medical research and scientific excellence. Detailed proposals for the scheme, which will include the proposed financial contribution of the current and any future partners, will be developed in 2008.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether sites at the rear of the British Library have been secured for the future location of the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill; and if he will make a statement. [162744]

Ian Pearson: The BLISS consortium, (MRC, CRUK, Wellcome Trust and UCL) have submitted an expression of interest for the land adjacent to the British Library to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), as part of the sale process. The expression of interest is still under consideration.

National Institute for Medical Research: Public Appointments

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects the appointment of a permanent director of the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, to be made; and if he will make a statement. [162710]

Ian Pearson: This is a matter for the Medical Research Council. I have asked the MRC's chief executive to write to my hon. Friend.

Science: Finance

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his plans are for public funding for science and innovation; and if he will make a statement. [164254]

Ian Pearson: Public funding for science and innovation continues to rise. The science budget will increase from £3.4 billion in 2007/08 to just under £4 billion by 2010/11. On innovation, the Technology Strategy Board will develop and lead a strategic programme with its partners worth £1 billion over the next three years. This includes £180 million earmarked by the English Regional Development Agencies and £120 million by the Research Councils, to work in partnership with the Technology Strategy Board, to provide a coherent package of technology and innovation support that is aligned to maximise impact.

Students: Fees and Charges

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what research his Department is undertaking on the effect of university tuition fees. [164256]

Bill Rammell: The Department is undertaking on-going research which will inform the independent commission on tuition fees. The commission will, of course, be able to gather its own evidence.

Students: Grants

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of prospective students who have been unable to access funding offered by the Arts and Humanities Research Council due to delays in the postal system during the last three years. [162382]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 12 November 2007]*: This is a matter for the Arts and Humanities Research Council. I have asked the chief executive to reply to the hon. Member's question.

Students: Industrial Training

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans his Department has to work with employers to ensure that the higher education sector equips students with appropriate skills. [164270]

Bill Rammell: We want employers to work more closely with the higher education sector to meet the higher skill needs of the work force and those of students still in education. Employers value broader skills such as communication, analysis and problem-solving and while a good higher education experience delivers these, more could be done. We will encourage this through our Higher Level Skills Strategy due to be published shortly.

University of York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what matters he discussed with the university of York during his recent visit to York; and if he will make a statement. [164273]

Mr. Denham: I very much enjoyed my visit to York university, and the discussions I had with staff and students there. I was able to see how the university is flourishing on the international stage, while at the same time making a real contribution to the local economy and society. I greatly value visits of this kind, because I have made clear that the Government want those working in the higher education sector and students to contribute towards the making of policy. I also valued the opportunity to speak with students from York university about a range of educational issues, as part of the Government's student listening programme.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 19 November 2007

WALES

Departmental Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained (A) temporary and (B) permanent jobs in his Department in 2007. [165113]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not ask candidates for jobs to provide their dates of birth or age, so it is not possible to identify the ages of applicants or interviewees.

The Wales Office has not recruited any temporary staff in 2007.

The Wales Office has some staff in each of the age ranges stated.

Departmental Ministerial Advisers

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the pay band is of each special adviser in his Department. [165346]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has two special advisers, each of whom is in Special Adviser Pay Band 1 (£38,862-£51,122 per annum).

Departmental Opinion Polls

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what opinion polls the Department has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164942]

Mr. Hain: None.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in his Department. [165207]

Mr. Hain: None.

Galileo: Cardiff

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent steps have been taken to promote Cardiff's bid to be the permanent home of the proposed Galileo Supervisory Authority. [165411]

Mr. Hain: The Government are continuing to take part in negotiations with European Commission partners regarding future funding of the Galileo project. A decision is expected before the end of the year.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Proof of Identity

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when the new Houses of Parliament pass *(a)* designs and *(b)* text on the reverse were authorised; and how much the introduction of the new passes has cost. [164555]

Nick Harvey: The new Houses of Parliament passes are a necessary component of the higher-security access system. The pass access system including the design of the passes was authorised by the project board and endorsed by both the Administration Committee on 26 June 2007 and the Joint Committee on Security (JCOS) on 3 July 2007. The cost of producing the passes—including a stock expected to last for at least the first year—was £70,000.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Burglary: Custodial Treatment

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of those convicted for burglary committed in Northern Ireland were given a custodial sentence in each of the last 10 years. [164391]

Paul Goggins: The following table documents the number convicted for burglary and the number and percentage of those who were given a custodial sentence.

Data cover the calendar years 1996 to 2005 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; therefore only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Number convicted and number and percentage given a custodial sentence for burglary 1996 to 2005

	Number convicted	*Number given a custodial sentence*	*Percentage given a custodial sentence*
1996	801	255	32
1997	715	233	33
1998	647	186	29
1999	703	285	41
2000	703	283	40
2001	496	207	42
2002	595	249	42
2003	602	291	48
2004	620	272	44
2005	557	265	48

Community Policing

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Police Service of Northern Ireland on plans to develop further community policing in Northern Ireland. [164400]

Paul Goggins: The Secretary of State and I are in regular discussion with the Chief Constable on all aspect of policing.

The Policing Plan for 2007-08 includes a target for the police to demonstrate the extent to which the Neighbourhood Policing Model has been implemented by reporting formally to the Northern Ireland Policing Board twice yearly and by facilitating two NIPB member 'seeing is believing' visits to districts per year. Implementation of neighbourhood policing is to be taken forward via the CORE governance arrangements and as an integral part of the overall change management programme in DCUs.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will break down the figures referred to in the answer of 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2-3W, on Departments: official hospitality, to show how much was spent on each function at which hospitality expenses were incurred. [162343]

Paul Goggins: I am unable to provide the level of detail requested as this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

I can however provide a breakdown by location and this is shown in the following table.

£

	Expenditure	*Income*
Stormont House	75,767	43,460
Hillsborough Castle	[1]260,697	76,513
Other NIO hospitality	117,303	Nil

[1] This figure includes £55,000 for two garden parties in 2007, one at Hillsborough Castle and one in Coleraine.

Expenditure incurred on hospitality by the NIO includes general living costs for Ministers and officials in lieu of hotel costs when in Northern Ireland; accommodation and hospitality for members of the royal family, visiting dignitaries and Heads of State; and hospitality for the representatives of political parties, business, voluntary, religious and community sectors in Northern Ireland attending events with Ministers. Customers using Hillsborough Castle and Stormont House are charged for the services they receive.

Discrimination: Northern Ireland

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* investigations, *(b)* arrests, *(c)* charges and *(d)* successful prosecutions for stirring up hatred or arousing fear on the grounds of (i) religious belief, (ii) ethnicity, (iii) race, (iv) nationality and citizenship, (v) sexual orientation and (vi) disability were made in Northern Ireland in each year since the relevant legislation was enacted in 1987. [163970]

Paul Goggins: The table sets out information recorded in relation to these offences and clearance figures for the period 1998 to October 2007. Assessing information prior to 1998 would incur disproportionate costs.

Hate crimes take many forms such as verbal abuse, physical assault, intimidation and damage to property. This question specifies categories for "stirring up hatred or arousing fear" therefore statistics supplied do not include incidents which have been committed against any person or property.

	Recorded[1]	*Cleared*[1]	*Motivation appears to be*
1998-99	0	0	—
1999-2000	0	0	—
2000-01	0	0	—
2001-02	0	0	—
2002-03	0	0	—
2003-04	1	1	Racist, cleared by juvenile advice and warning
2004-05	0	0	—
2005-06	1	0	Sectarian
2006-07	3	0	One sectarian and two racist
1 April to 31 October 2007	0	0	—

[1] Includes the following offences under the Public Order (NI) Order 1987:
Incitement to hatred
Distributing written material to incite hatred
Possession of matter intended to stir up hatred/arouse fear
Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Economic Situation

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the performance of the Northern Ireland economy in the last 12 months. [164387]

Paul Goggins: This is a matter for the Northern Ireland Administration.

However the Government's assessment of the UK economy was set out in the pre-Budget report published on 9 October, which shows that the UK economy continues to perform well. The Northern Ireland economy has also enjoyed sustained economic growth and has the lowest unemployment rate of any region of the UK.

Irish language

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Government intend to take to fulfil their commitment in Annex B of the St. Andrew's Agreement to introduce an Irish Language Act reflecting on the experience of Wales and the Republic of Ireland. [164022]

Paul Goggins: Prior to the restoration of the Northern Ireland Assembly the Government released two consultation papers on Irish language legislation, the first on 13 December 2006 and the second, containing draft clauses for such legislation, on

13 March 2007. In doing so the Government honoured their commitment in Annex B of the St. Andrew's Agreement as far as possible. However upon the restoration of the Northern Ireland Assembly on 8 May 2007, responsibility for this matter passed, in the first instance, to the devolved Administration.

The Northern Ireland Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure has indicated his intention to work with the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure to find a resolution to this matter and we await the outcome of that process.

Police: Manpower

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the likely effect of budgetary plans on future police office numbers in Northern Ireland. [164399]

Paul Goggins: The Government have received from the NI Policing Board their assessment of the resource requirement for police officers in Northern Ireland. The Government remain committed to the proper resourcing of the PSNI in order to ensure that it is equipped to deliver effective policing both now and following the transfer of responsibility for policing and justice. The CSR07 settlement provides robust and sustainable funding for policing to 2010-11. My officials are working closely with PSNI and the Board on this matter.

Prostitution: Northern Ireland

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many brothels have been raided in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [163673]

Paul Goggins: I am unable to provide this information as to do so would incur disproportionate costs.

Sexual Offences: Northern Ireland

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of vice-related offences in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and how many of these have been (i) UK citizens, (ii) EU foreign nationals and (iii) non-EU foreign nationals. [163674]

Paul Goggins: Information in relation to nationality is not held centrally and so it is not possible to calculate the number of EU and non-EU foreign nationals who were prosecuted and convicted of vice-related offences. It is only possible to give the total number of people prosecuted and subsequently convicted for vice-related offences. These are documented in the following table and are broken down by offence.

Data cover the calendar years 2001 to 2005 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; therefore only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Number prosecuted and convicted for vice-related offences by offence 2001-05

	Brothel keeping		*Prostitute-soliciting*		*Total*	
	Prosecuted	*Convicted*	*Prosecuted*	*Convicted*	*Prosecuted*	*Convicted*
2001	2	1	1	1	3	2
2002	0	0	1	1	1	1
2003	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004	1	1	1	1	2	2
2005	3	3	0	0	3	3

SCOTLAND

Departmental Flexible Working

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours (i) in the Department and (ii) the executive agencies for which the Department is responsible. [164330]

David Cairns: Staff in the Scotland Office are seconded from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice and the Office follows the policies of the parent Departments regarding flexible hours. The Office presently has six staff who have applied successfully to work flexible hours.

Departmental Ministers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he receives a ministerial salary in respect of his duties as Secretary of State for Scotland; and whether the same arrangements applied for each of his two immediate predecessors as Secretary of State. [165175]

David Cairns: Ministerial salaries are paid in accordance with the Ministerial and Other Salaries Act 1975. Details of ministerial salaries are available at:

http://www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/m06.pdf

and in the House Library.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many contracts were awarded by his Department to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Department in each case. [165271]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999; since that date, no payments have been made to Opinion Leader Research.

Scottish Parliament: Elections

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he plans to publish the Government's response to the Ron Gould report on the Scottish elections. [165815]

David Cairns: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has already responded positively to five recommendations in the Gould report and I have confirmed we will shortly launch a consultation exercise on the others that fall within his responsibilities. Once we have considered views from the consultation, we expect to publish a formal response to the report in the spring next year.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Daedalus Airfield

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to ensure access for *(a)* general aviation and *(b)* the local community to Daedalus airfield; and if she will make a statement. [165044]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Part of the site of the former HMS Daedalus at Lee-on-Solent, including the runways, was acquired from Defence Estates in March 2006 in order to protect the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) Search and Rescue helicopter facility. This land is currently managed and operated on a tenancy basis by the Hampshire Police Authority.

The remainder of the site, including the land on which the local general aviation community is based, was purchased by the South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA). Access to the runways at Lee-on-Solent from the SEEDA land has, I understand, been on a grace and favour basis.

The recent decision to close the airfield to general aviation was taken, I am informed, by the Hampshire police as the operator of the aerodrome due to safety concerns and as such was not a matter for the Government. It would therefore be a matter for the Hampshire police to consider whether general aviation might safely be continued, and whether the local community can retain access to the runways. Safety is and, I assume, must remain the primary consideration for them.

British Transport Police: Training

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officers in the British Transport Police have received specialist training to assist them in tackling illegal immigration; and if she will make a statement. [163135]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, E-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will make it her policy to meet the actual costs of free off-peak bus travel within each local authority area; [164656]

(2) what representations she has received from local authorities on the costs of extending free off-peak bus travel next year. [164659]

Ms Rosie Winterton: From April 2006, older and eligible disabled people have been guaranteed free off-peak local bus travel within their local authority area. The Government provided an extra £350 million in 2006-07 and a further £367.5 million in 2007-08, via the Formula Grant system, to fund the extra costs to local authorities. The Government are confident that this should be sufficient to cover the total additional costs to local authorities of this improvement in the statutory minimum requirement. Any discretionary local enhancements, such as peak bus travel, are funded from an authority's own resources.

The Government are providing local authorities in England with an extra £212 million next year for the English national bus concession. This extra funding is based on generous assumptions about the probable cost impact of the new concession and we are confident this will be sufficient in aggregate.

We have had a number of letters from local authorities about the costs of the national bus concession. The Department is currently consulting on the formula basis for distributing the £212 million by special grant; the consultation closes on 23 November. As of 13 November we have had 43 responses. Details of the responses will be published after the consultation closes.

In addition, we will be providing local authorities with approximately £30 million for the issuing of the national pass.

Buses: Safety

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research has been commissioned by her Department and its agencies into road safety and the use of articulated buses. [165492]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No research has been specifically commissioned by the Department for Transport or its agencies into the road safety and use of articulated buses.

Cycleways

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration her Department has given to *(a)* increasing the number of cycle lanes and *(b)* designing safe walking routes to schools in the proposed eco-towns. [164763]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport has been consulting with various non-government organisations with expertise in walking and cycling, such as Sustrans, to bring together best practice advice and information on sustainable travel options in the proposed eco-towns.

We aim to issue guidance by the end of the year, which will highlight the importance of a user hierarchy that prioritises pedestrians and cyclists to make walking and cycling the modes of choice for all types of journeys.

Cycling: Accidents

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents there were involving cyclists who were cycling on pavements in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2005. [165093]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There were 961, 778 and 856 reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one pedal cyclist on a pavement in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2003 and *(c)* 2005 respectively.

Cycling: Penalties

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what penalties cyclists face if caught cycling on pavements. [165094]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Cycling on the pavement is an offence under section 72 of the Highways Act 1835 as amended by section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1888.

The enforcement of cycling offences is an operational matter for the police. The maximum fine is £500 but the offence can, since 1999, also be dealt with by the issue of a fixed penalty notice (FPN) of £30. This provides the police with a simple procedure for dealing with offenders. We encourage members of the public to give evidence of specific problem areas and of any dangerous behaviour by cyclists to the police. This can help ensure that the police target their resources most effectively.

We support any action taken by the police to deter and reduce cycling offences.

Departmental Flexible Working

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours (i) in her Department and (ii) the executive agencies for which the Department is responsible. [164321]

Jim Fitzpatrick: While the Department does identify the working hours of its staff it does not keep central records that identify all working patterns. These are agreed and managed at a local level taking account of individual circumstances and the business need.

Departmental Interpreters

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many French speakers her Department employs. [166184]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Driving Under Influence: Accidents

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the contribution made by driving under the influence of illegal substances to the numbers of deaths and injuries on the roads. [165188]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No formal assessment is made because it is not possible for routine accident reports to record such information. However information on contributory factors to road accidents is now collected by police forces and reported annually. The use of legal or illegal drugs by drivers was, in the view of the reporting officer, considered a contributory factor in some 2 per cent. of fatal accidents in 2006.

Research for the Department by TRL Ltd., published in 2000 "The incidence of drugs and alcohol in road accidents" showed that 18 per cent. of driver fatalities in the survey had traces of illegal drugs in their body, two-thirds of which was cannabis, the inactive element of which remains traceable long after impairment. The presence of drugs is not evidence of accident causation, though there may be an association.

A 2004 European Commission study "Impaired motorists: methods of roadside testing and assessment for licensing" co-funded by member states, examined the prevalence of illegal drugs in drivers. The main UK element of the study estimated the prevalence of drugs in drivers in the study area which were at, or above, the confirmatory test cut-off concentrations proposed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The result varied from 4.10 per cent. of drivers for ecstasy or similar drugs alone, to 0.02 per cent. for opiates alone (not including codeine). Ecstasy alone and cannabis alone (3.14 per cent.) were, by far, the drugs with the highest prevalence.

The summary of the results of the UK element of that study are at www.immortal.or.at/deliverables.php under report D-R4.2.

Finsbury Park Station

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had on proposals to transfer Finsbury Park station to Transport for London. [164901]

Mr. Tom Harris: None. There are currently no plans to transfer the operation of Finsbury Park station from First Capital Connect to Transport for London.

Government Car and Despatch Agency: Postal Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many items have been lost or misplaced by the Government Mail Service in each year since 1997. [164777]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Lorries

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to publish Professor McKinnon's report on longer heavier vehicles. [163283]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The study by the Transport Research Laboratory and Heriot-Watt university, where Professor McKinnon is Director of the Logistics Research Centre, was expected to report by October; but given the challenging and complex nature of the project, the report has been slightly delayed. We are aiming to publish within the next three months.

Lorries: A34

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will ban heavy goods vehicles from the outside carriageway of the A34. [164357]

Mr. Tom Harris: There are currently no plans to ban heavy goods vehicles from the outside carriageway of the A34.

The Highways Agency has introduced trials at three locations across the strategic road network for HGV overtaking restrictions but is not planning to introduce further trial areas until results from the initial M42 trial have been analysed.

Motor Vehicles: Licensing

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many registered vehicle owners appeared before a court for failing to comply with the statutory off-road notification declaration in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07. [165850]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The exact number of people who appeared before a court for failure to declare a vehicle off the road are not recorded.

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many registered vehicle owners failed to comply with statutory off-road notification declarations in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07. [165851]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of people identified as failing to comply with statutory off-road notification legislation and who had enforcement action taken against them[1] is shown in the table.

[1] In the 2003-04 financial year enforcement did not pick up 100 per cent. of those who had failed to comply. Complete figures to answer the question are not available for that year. In all other years all people who were identified as failing to comply were the subject of enforcement action.

	Number
2003-04	1,394,317
2004-05	1,183,544
2005-06	1,341,598
2006-07	1,272,384

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles were declared off road under statutory off-road notification declarations in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07. [165852]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In 2003-04 DVLA received 2.65 million statutory off-road notifications. In 2004-05 the figure was 3.66 million, in 2005-06 it was 4.19 million and in 2006-07 it was 4.20 million.

Ports: Security

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the implications for a ship calling at a port which does not meet the 2004 International Ships and Ports Facility Security Code. [163792]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Code requires that a ship's own Security Plan sets out the procedures to be followed when it is calling at a port facility that does not meet the Code. A ship may make provision for its own security or where appropriate a master of a ship may request a "Declaration of Security". This is a standard form that addresses the security requirements that are to be shared between a port facility and a ship and states the responsibility for each. The Code also requires ships to keep records of their last 10 ports of call prior to arrival in a destination, including details of how security was maintained at ports not meeting the Code. If the ship has at all times met the provisions of the Code there should be no significant implications for the ship.

Railways: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 43W, on railway stations: Milton Keynes, whether the increase in the number of long distance trains stopping per hour at Milton Keynes applies to both peak and off peak services. [165897]

Mr. Tom Harris: The increase in services calling at Milton Keynes takes place throughout the day at both peak and off peak times.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many long distance trains due to stop at Milton Keynes under the proposed new timetable will only either drop off or pick up passengers during *(a)* peak and *(b)* off peak times. [165898]

Mr. Tom Harris: Heading north, one train per hour is currently designated as pick up only. Between 16.42 and 19.42 inclusive, it is proposed that this will apply to all long distance services. In the southbound direction, one train only per hour will be set down only across the course of the traffic day.

Speed Limits: County Durham

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport where *(a)* existing and *(b)* proposed 20 mph zones are located in County Durham; and if she will make a statement. [166033]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (Amendment) Act Order 1999 (SI 1999/1608) removed the requirement for local authorities to obtain consent from the Secretary of State when introducing 20 mph zones and 20 mph speed limits on their roads. Therefore for further information, the hon. Gentleman should contact the local highway authority—in this case Durham county council—directly. Suggested contact:

John Richardson
Corporate Director—Environment
Durham County Council
County Hall
Durham DH15UL

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Direct Mail

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to *(a)* finalise and *(b)* implement a preference service for people to opt-out of receiving unaddressed direct mail. [164142]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* The Direct Marketing Association is developing an opt-out service for unaddressed direct mail. It expects to launch the scheme by the end of the year.

Fishing Industry: EU Action

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on possible changes to EU labour law exemptions for the fishing sector; and if he will make a statement. [163256]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The Government will consider in detail any proposals for changes to EU labour law exemptions for the fishing sector. Any such proposals would need to be considered in the context of the provisions of two recent international conventions agreed in the International Labour Organisation, the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 and the Work in Fishing Convention 2007.

Fly-Tipping

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to reduce fly-tipping. [165301]

Joan Ruddock: Tackling fly-tipping and wider waste crime is a priority for the Government. The Government's Waste Strategy for England, published in May 2007, sets out a blueprint for increased recycling and reuse of waste, diverting waste from landfill and for preventing it in the first place. The strategy makes it clear that initiatives to boost waste prevention and recycling should be supported by fly-tipping strategies aimed at tackling the illegal dumping of waste.

The strategy includes the Government's Illegal Waste Activity Action Plan which sets out what action is being taken and proposed in this area. This includes:

(i) Reviewing legislation on the controls that are in place to deal with correct management and carriage of waste. The review aims to reduce levels of fly-tipping, make it easier for businesses to understand and comply with the regulations and make regulations easier for local authorities to use. Second consultation is planned for 2008.

(ii) Developing legislation that will give local authorities and the Environment Agency the powers to stop, search and instantly seize vehicles being used to commit fly-tipping offences. Consultation is planned for 2008.

(iii) Introducing mandatory Site Waste Management Plans for construction and demolition projects above a certain value. This is planned for completion in April 2008.

(iv) Working to better understand how small businesses and householders deal with waste and the types of awareness raising campaigns that would most effectively reach these groups and change their behaviour. This work will be carried out by March 2008.

(v) Funding the Environment Agency's targeted campaigns to disseminate good practice to businesses and raise awareness of good waste management practices.

(vi) Delivering Flycapture Enforcement, a training programme aimed at local authority officers and their legal teams to increase knowledge of the relevant legislation and to develop skills in effective enforcement and prosecution of fly-tippers.

(vii) Working with stakeholders to consider how the Flycapture database can be enhanced or improved to enable local authorities to better use data to implement fly-tipping interventions.

Fly-Tipping: Agriculture

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of fly-tipping on farmland; and what plans he has to require contractors to produce site waste management plans to prevent fly tipping. [163754]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA does not hold data on the number of fly-tipping incidents, or cost of clear-up, of fly-tipping on private land, including farmland. However, a report conducted on behalf of the Environment Agency in 2005-06 estimated the cost of clearing fly-tipping from agricultural land to be around £47 million.

We have recently consulted on proposals to make Site Waste Management Plans (SWMPs) a requirement for construction, demolition and excavation work above a certain size. Following the consultation and further research on the costs and benefits of producing and implementing SWMPs, it is proposed to set the threshold level for SWMPs at a project cost of £300,000.

SWMPs will help ensure that all waste on construction sites is managed responsibly and in accordance with waste management controls. Plans will record or make reference to the waste carrier's registration and waste transfer notes to ensure an audit trail of all waste leaving sites to reduce the likelihood of it being fly-tipped. The construction project client will be required to produce the plan before work begins on site. Responsibility for updating and implementing it will then transfer to the principal contractor.

Site Waste Management Plan Regulations are expected to come into force in April 2008 and will apply in England only.

Gangmasters Licensing Authority: Wales

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff the Gangmasters Licensing Authority employs to cover Wales. [165412]

Jonathan Shaw: The Gangmasters Licensing Authority has 29 field officers throughout GB and NI. Field officers either check that licensed gangmasters are complying with their licence conditions or enforce the offences established by the Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004. While no officers are permanently based in Wales, all field officers may be deployed to conduct operations in that country.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to encourage Departments and local authorities to publish their annual greenhouse gas emissions. [164042]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* DEFRA currently publishes the annual emissions of carbon dioxide for local authority areas. In addition, following the introduction of a new local government performance framework in April 2008, local authorities will be required to report annually the reductions in the CO_2 produced as a result of their own operations. The Sustainable Development Commission publishes information on CO_2 emissions from central Government Departments in its Sustainable Development in Government Report. CO_2 emissions comprise over 80 per cent. of greenhouse gas emissions.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average individual financial contribution was to the cost of works quoted for by Eaga approved contractors for the purpose of a Home Energy Efficiency Grant required of those to whom a grant has been offered in *(a)* England, *(b)* rural areas and *(c)* urban areas in the latest period for which figures are available. [164828]

Mr. Woolas: *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* From 1 June 2005 to 31 October 2007, the average individual financial contribution of all Warm Front applicants in England was £85.40. The financial contributions of those living in rural and urban areas, for the same time period, were £140.71 and £76.12 respectively.

Packaging: EU Law

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on best practice in the implementation of the EC Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste 94/62/EC. [164463]

Joan Ruddock: My officials meet regularly with their counterparts in other member states, as well as the European Commission, to discuss implementation of this directive.

In May, the then Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Shields (David Miliband) wrote to EU Environment Commissioner Dimas calling for a review of aspects of the directive so that member states could take more effective action against clear cases of over packaging. The Commission has since indicated its intention to review the implementation and enforcement of these provisions over the coming months.

I will continue to keep this matter under review and intend to discuss it with packaging industry representatives in early 2008.

Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on *(a)* supporting and *(b)* financing the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution; and if he will make a statement. [164140]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* DEFRA supports the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP) on behalf of the Government and the devolved Administrations by providing:

a budget of £920,000 for this financial year to cover costs of the Commission and its Secretariat;

a contribution of £170,000 over two years for the RCEP current study on "The environmental effects of novel materials and applications" because of its relevance to DEFRA's agenda on Sustainable Consumption and Production;

a service for the appointment of Commissioners; and

a service for Human Resources and Information Technology.

Financing of the RCEP was addressed in a review of the RCEP which was published in July 2007. The review, conducted by independent consultants, concluded that there is continuing need for the RCEP but that it needs to modernise its way of working to improve its level of impact and effectiveness.

DEFRA is working with other Government Departments, the devolved Administrations and the RCEP to formulate a Government response to the review recommendations which will include a position on RCEP future funding. As with any other advisory body we fund, we require RCEP to clearly demonstrate value for money.

Seas and Oceans: EU action

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union, COM (2007) 575 final, what his policy is on the proposal for a European network for maritime surveillance; and if he will make a statement. [163252]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

We support the principle of improved co-operation between European Community member states' coastguards and appropriate agencies to achieve a higher degree of co-ordination of maritime surveillance.

The Department for Transport will give constructive consideration to any proposals which the European Commission may bring forward which relate to the development of a surveillance system which would bring together existing monitoring and tracking systems.

Where such systems relate to activities which are outside the scope of this Department, we will necessarily work together with the other Government Departments within whose scope those activities fall.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what maritime surveillance work his Department is conducting with other *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* non-EU countries; and if he will make a statement. [163253]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Transport employs the following means of maritime surveillance: aerial surveillance; Automatic Identification System (AIS); IMO-adopted ship reporting; radar; and satellite surveillance.

These activities all involve common working with European Union countries (and Norway) and European institutions (notably the European Maritime Safety Agency).

Common working in the Dover Strait and adjacent waters is particularly important. We undertake active surveillance on ships in the Dover Strait and adjacent waters in collaboration with the French Maritime Administration as part of the Channel Navigation Information Service, using a network of land-based radar scanners. This information is fused with other information derived from an IMO-adopted mandatory ship reporting scheme which covers the Dover Strait, and with electronic information derived from AIS.

We are in the process of integrating our surveillance activity using AIS into the European Community's SafeSeaNet hub, and this process will be complete by the end of December 2008 at the latest.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union, COM(2007) 575 final, if he will make a statement on the proposed network of maritime clusters and the possible effect on UK interests. [163254]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

In England, a number of Regional Development Agencies have already established organisations in their own regions, bringing together maritime manufacturing interests, for example Marine South West, Marine South East and Midland Marine Alliance. The Government fully support these initiatives. We look forward to working with the European Commission to ensure that whatever proposals finally emerge, they will really add value to the current arrangements.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union, COM(2007) 575 final, if he will make a statement on the proposed review of EU labour law exemptions for the shipping and fishing sectors. [163255]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The Government note the Commission's intention to review exemptions from EU labour laws in the shipping and fishing sectors. We shall consider carefully the details of any proposals that emerge.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Pakistan

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the recent events in Pakistan on International Security Assistance Force military operations along the Afghan-Pakistan border. [164430]

Des Browne: Currently, there are no indications that ISAF military operations in this area are being affected by events in Pakistan.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what use is being made of the former US Kandahar Theatre Internment Facility located on Kandahar airbase by *(a)* British forces, *(b)* International Security Assistance Force forces and *(c)* Afghan forces. [162524]

Des Browne: Our records indicate that UK forces have made no use of the US Theatre Internment Facility at Kandahar and nor would we have expected them to given the current facilities and processes we have in place for detention. Use of the US Theatre Internment Facility by Afghan forces or other nations is a matter for the nations concerned.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his assessment is of the security situation in Kabul; [162633]

(2) what his assessment is of the security situation in the Afghan provinces of *(a)* Nimruz, *(b)* Farah and *(c)* Herat. [162647]

Des Browne: The security situation in Afghanistan is stable, if fragile in places. The Afghan national army and the international forces are helping to extend the authority of the Government of Afghanistan, although there remains a threat from suicide attacks and local ambushes.

The Taliban have recently launched a series of attacks on district centres in the western provinces of Nimruz, Farah and Herat. ISAF and Government forces are reacting to this threat to ensure that security is maintained in these areas.

Nevertheless, compared to many areas of eastern and southern Afghanistan these provinces experience lower levels of violence, the majority of which is the result of low-level criminality and clashes among local power brokers. Herat in particular has benefited from a sustained period of relative stability, reconstruction and growth.

In Kabul, despite a number of recent high-profile suicide attacks, the situation remains broadly stable, with no significant difference in the number of security incidents occurring from January to October, compared with the same period in 2006.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for which countries the mandate for participation in *(a)* ISAF and *(b)* Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan will expire in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [164102]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK ISAF mandate is due to expire in March 2009. The mandate renewal dates for other ISAF/OEF members are matters for the individual countries concerned.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many locally engaged staff are employed by his Department in Afghanistan. [164350]

Des Browne *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* Records indicate that as of 14 November 2007, 397 locally engaged civilians were employed by the Ministry of Defence in Afghanistan.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual full-time strength is of the (i) Territorial Army, (ii) Royal Marines Reserve, (iii) Royal Naval Reserve and (iv) Royal Auxiliary Air Force. [164549]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The trained strength and trained requirement of the Territorial Army, Royal Marines Reserve, Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Auxiliary Air Force can be found at the following link to the Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts, Section 1: Resources, Table 27, page 169.

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/MODAnnualReports0607/

Copies of the report are also available in the Library of the House.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many field hospitals are available for deployment in Afghanistan; [165055]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the training scheme for field hospital workers in Iraq and Afghanistan; [165056]

(3) how many people are in training to work in field hospitals in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; [165452]

(4) how many field hospitals are available for deployment in Iraq; [165456]

(5) how many field hospitals are deployed in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; [165457]

(6) how many field hospitals were available for deployment in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in January; [165458]

(7) how many field hospitals were deployed in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in January. [165459]

Derek Twigg: Fully-formed field hospitals are not maintained in the UK available for deployment, but are individually made up and deployed in accordance with formal operational planning assumptions, with the personnel rotating on a regular basis.

In Afghanistan, the UK has one field hospital (Role 2 (Enhanced)) at Camp Bastion, which has been in location since June 2006. The UK is also providing a contribution of 12 personnel to the Multinational Role 3 field hospital at Kandahar, for which Canada is the lead nation.

In Iraq, the UK has one Role 2 (Enhanced) facility at the Combined Operating Base field hospital in Basra. This has been in its current location since the end of December 2006. It had been situated at the Shaibah Logistic Base since March 2003.

Field hospitals will be staffed by fully-trained medical personnel, both Regular and Reserve members of the Defence Medical Services (DMS). Many Regular DMS staff will work alongside civilian colleagues in NHS hospitals, maintaining their clinical skills and qualifications in an active, up-to-date environment, allowing them to deploy quickly as part of operational field hospitals when required. Additionally, the vast majority of the Reservist medical personnel deployed to operations are NHS employees. The training they gain in their NHS jobs is indispensable for ensuring the quality of the frontline care they help to provide.

Since all personnel are fully trained medically, they do not require medical training before deploying to Iraq or Afghanistan, but they do undertake specific pre-deployment training. The training includes a range of theatre-specific briefings and training, including weapon training, live firing and fitness. In addition, specific medical training for field hospital personnel deployed to either Iraq or Afghanistan is conducted. This includes a pre-hospital exercise for the Reserve forces deployed, and six days of medical training. This covers both directed medical training and collective hospital training in a field hospital simulator. Each collective hospital exercise is validated and a report produced. The medical training is widely acknowledged to be excellent.

Each field hospital provides a deployed hospital care capability that includes emergency medicine, primary surgery, intensive care unit, medium and low dependency nursing care beds and diagnostic support (including CT Scanner), as well as a mission-tailored variety of clinical specialities for deployed medical care.

The field hospitals are an integral part of the Joint Medical Group in both Theatres. The Iraq hospital is currently manned to 106, and in Afghanistan to 90. Field hospital personnel usually deploy for a six-month tour of duty. There are exceptions within the clinical staff, and consultant grade personnel and other

selected clinicians complete between six to 12 weeks. Some nursing staff and other allied health care professions also complete a 12-week tour of duty.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the level of pay is of the five lowest-paid ranks of troops now serving in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; and what percentage each is of the UK national average wage. [165170]

Des Browne: The average pay levels for the five lowest paid ranks in the services and the percentage against the national average are:

Rank	*Weekly earnings[1] (£)*	*Percentage of UK national average*
Private	480	105
Corporal	554	121
Lance Corporal	676	148
Sergeant	738	161
Staff Sergeant	820	179

[1] Includes allowances paid to those personnel on operations.

Armed Forces: Discharges

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* guideline and *(b)* actual voluntary outflow rates are for each pinch point trade. [162632]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The services do not set official guidelines on voluntary outflow (VO) rates. They assess the acceptable range of voluntary outflow in terms of the ability to provide sustainable manpower structures and, in particular, the maximum capacity of training pipelines that supply replacements for those who leave. Actual outflows are monitored against these assumption and constraints and action is taken to respond, for example, by the use of a Financial Retention Incentive.

Current voluntary outflow rates for pinch point trades are shown in the following table:

Pinch Point Trade	*VO Rate (percentage)*
Royal Navy (as at 1 July 2007)	
Able Bodied Seaman	6.5
Merlin Pilots	4.0
Merlin Observers	1.7
Merlin Aircrew	5.0
Leading Hand Warfare	4.4
Able Bodied Diver	2.4
Royal Marines Other Ranks	6.3
Leading Hand Air Engineering Technician	2.0
Petty Officer Mine Warfare	5.4
Able Bodied Warfare Specialist (Sensors Submariner)	4.3
Able Bodied Warfare Specialist (Tactical Submariner)	6.5
Strategic Weapons Systems Junior Ranks	3.3
Nuclear Watchkeeper	2.7
Army(as at 12 February 2007)	
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Vehicle Mechanic 1	5.8
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Recovery Mechanic	5.7
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Armourer	5.1
Royal Engineers Clerk of Works	1.8
Army Medical Service—General Surgeon	0.0
Royal Engineers Mechanical Engineer Fitter	8.2
Royal Logistics Corps Ammunition Technician	4.2
Royal Logistic Corps—Postal and Courier Operator	5.9
Royal Logistics Corps Movement Controller	2.9
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps—Radiographer	10.4
Royal Engineers Military Engineer Geographic	5.8
Intelligence Operational Military Intelligence	5.0
Royal Engineers Explosive Ordnance Disposal 2	3.8
Royal SIGNALS Information Systems Engineer	3.7
Royal Engineers Command, Control and Communications Systems	9.5
Army Medical Service—General Medical Practitioner	5.8
Royal Logistics Corps Chef	2.5
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps—Operation Department Practitioner	3.6
Royal Logistics Corps Petroleum Operator	6.3
Army Medical Service—General Duties Nurse Soldier	10.3
Royal Artillery—Operator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle	10.9
Army Medical Service—Nurse Officer	8.5
Army Medical Service—A&E Nurse Officer	0.0
Army Medical Service—Anaesthetist	0.0
Army Medical Service—Radiologist	0.0
Army Medical Service—Orthopaedic Surgeon	0.0
Army Medical Service—Intensive Therapy Unit Nurse Officer	0.0
Royal Air Force (as at 1 May 2007)	
Medical	2.3
Operational Support (Intelligence)	2.1
Operational Support (RAF Regiment)	2.7
Operational Support (Provost/Security)	5.1
Princess Mary's RAF Nursing Service	2.3
Weapons Support (Air Load Master)	0.6
Weapons Support (Linguist)	0.0
Air Traffic Control	2.3
Flight Operations Manager/Flight Operations Assistant—Sergeant	4.8
Firefighter	10.6
Gunner	5.3
Movements Operations/Controller	3.4
Motor Transport Technician	2.5
RAF Police	4.2
Staff Nurse (RON) A&E	6.4

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the financial allocation was to the Defence housing budget for the *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2008-09. [163048]

Derek Twigg: The financial allocation for Defence Estate's Housing Directorate (formerly the Defence Housing Executive), which covers the costs of the provision of houses to Service families in Great Britain net of contributions by personnel, but excluding overheads, is as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	[1]240
2007-08	[2]261

[1] Actual expenditure. [2] Forecast.

The budget for 2008-09 is still being finalised as part of the Department's current planning.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of married quarters were of each grade one to four in the last year for which figures are available. [165870]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces gave on 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 49-50W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Armed Forces: Officers

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* established and *(b)* current trained strength of officers in the Army is, broken down by arm. [164556]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the trained officer strength and Regular Army Liability (RAL) as at 1 March 2007 by arm service. The difference between liability and trained strength is attributable to: Operational requirements; the impact of extended courses; and long-term absence, for example due to illness or pregnancy.

Current UKTAP officer manning state by arm/service as at 1 March 2007

Arm/service	RAL 06	Strength
Total	13,250	13,840
STAFF	720	830
HCAV/RAC	840	850
RA	1,010	1,040
RE	1,200	1,220
R SIGNALS	930	1,010
INFANTRY	2,490	2,730
AAC	490	520
RAChD	150	140
RLC	1,580	1,640
RAMC	950	1,040
REME	770	840
AGC (PRO)	210	220
AGC (SPS)	440	480
AGO (ETS)	310	350
AGC (ALS)	120	110
RAVC	30	30
SASC	30	30
RADC	160	140
INT CORPS	320	290
APTC	50	50
GENERAL LIST	—	—

Current UKTAP officer manning state by arm/service as at 1 March 2007

Arm/service	RAL 06	Strength
QARANC	410	260
CA Mus	30	40

— = denotes zero or rounded to zero.

Notes:

1. Figures are shown as at 1 March 2007 as reliable Army strength statistics to this level are not yet available for 1 April 2007 onwards. This is due to the ongoing validation of Army data following the introduction of the new Personnel Administration System.
2. Figures are for UK regular forces trained officers and therefore excludes Gurkhas, Full-Time Reserve Service personnel, the Home Service Battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 to prevent disclosure of sensitive personal data.

Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.

Armed Forces: Postal Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the announcement on free post for the families of troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan of 12 November 2007 is expected to cost his Department; and if he will make a statement. [165887]

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost of providing a free parcel service throughout the year for members of the armed forces serving overseas. [165589]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The cost of the freepost service announced on 12 November to be met by the Government will be met by the Treasury Reserve. It is not possible to state at this time how much this will be. The cost will be dependent on mail volumes which are difficult to predict. We will be in a position to make an informed estimate once the service has run for six months and an assessment of a 'steady state' volume can be made for planning purposes.

Estimates of the costs at this stage are between £1 million and £4 million per year, excluding the Royal Mail contribution. The cost of the service increases exponentially once mail volume passes a certain level as additional air charter and personnel costs start to be factored in.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how long the free post for personnel on operations announced on 12 November 2007 will extend; and if he will make a statement. [165888]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is no planned end date for the freepost scheme announced on 12 November. The scheme will operate for as long as our personnel are serving in the Iraq and Afghanistan theatres.

Buildings

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many buildings, not including military bases or barracks, his Department occupies, broken down by region. [163954]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Charities: Fees and Charges

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department charged the charity organisers for the RAF Brize Norton 2005 Children in Need concert. [163146]

Derek Twigg: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Cluster Munitions

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 752W, on cluster munitions, what progress he has made in prohibiting the use, production and stockpiling of cluster munitions since the UK signed the Oslo Declaration on Cluster Munitions in February 2007. [165183]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since declaring our support to the Oslo Process in February 2007 and following our subsequent withdrawal from service of two types of 'dumb' cluster munitions in March of this year, we have been at the forefront of international discussions that have resulted in a Negotiating Mandate within the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), with the ultimate aim of delivering a new legally binding instrument to address the humanitarian impact of certain cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

Defence Export Services Organisation

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the closure of the Defence Export Services Organisation was approved in advance by Lord Drayson. [164727]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The decision to transfer the responsibilities of the Defence Export Services Organisation to UK Trade and Investment was taken by the Prime Minister. The Defence Secretary was consulted.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the staff canteen at the headquarters building is subsidised. [164533]

Derek Twigg: The canteen in the Ministry of Defence main building is not directly subsidised; however, the contractor providing the catering service is not charged for either the space or utilities.

Departmental Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at which functions organised by his Department in the last 12 months hospitality costs were incurred; and how much was incurred at each function. [162798]

Derek Twigg: Information on official entertainment by function is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure on official entertainment is subject to departmental regulation and compliance with the principles of propriety set out in Managing Public Money and in the Treasury's handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures are followed in his Department on signing off policies with significant financial implications for his Department, with particular reference to the role of the finance director. [164965]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The procedures that are followed and factors that are taken into account when introducing new policies are set out in Managing Public Money, box 4.7. The main duties and responsibilities of departmental finance directors are set out in Annex 4.1 of Managing Public Money.

Copies of Managing Public Money have been placed in the Library of the House and are available on line at:

http://search.treasury.gov.uk/search?p=Q&ts=treasury&mainresult=mt_mainresult_yes&w=managing+public+money

Departmental Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on health and safety training for non-industrial civilian staff in 2006-07. [164535]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilians in his Department were injured as a result of work related incidents in each year since 1997; what types of injury were incurred; what the circumstances were of each injury; how many days were missed due to each injury; and how much compensation was received in each case. [161929]

Derek Twigg: Centrally held records show that the number of Ministry of Defence civilians injured as a result of work related incidents in each year since 1997 is as follows:

	Number of civilians injured as a result of work related incidents
1997	2,210
1998	4,832
1999	4,397
2000	3,766
2001	3,100
2002	2,224
2003	1,827
2004	1,469
2005	1,422
2006	1,871

The most frequently reported types of injury are due to handling, lifting, slips and trips.

Information about the circumstances of individual injuries and on how many days were missed due to each injury does not go back as far as 1997. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the total amount of compensation paid to civilians employed by the Department is contained in the Ministry of Defence's Claims Annual Reports, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the full-time equivalent headcount in his Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for his Department is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [163973]

Derek Twigg: Historical manpower statistics back to 1998 are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and are available online at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/.

Forecast levels for MOD civilian personnel on 1 April 2008 were published in the Government's expenditure plans 2007-08. These (together with a separate figure for Royal Fleet Auxiliary [RFA] Personnel) are set out as follows.

	Number
Level 1 civilian[1]	72,000
RFA (included in Level 1 civilian figures above)	2,300
Locally engaged civilians (LEC) non-operational	11,000
LEC operational	2,400
Trading funds	10,100
Total civilian	95,500

[1] Level 1 includes permanent and casual civilian personnel and Royal Fleet Auxiliaries but excludes trading fund employers

The requirement for civilian manpower beyond 2008 is kept under constant review and has not yet been set formally.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* temporary and *(b)* part-time staff in the last financial year. [164536]

Derek Twigg: In financial year 2006-07, the total pay costs (pay, employers' national insurance and pension contributions where appropriate) for UK based temporary staff were some £13 million and for part-time civilian staff were some £80 million. A further £43 million was spent on agency staff.

These figures exclude Trading Fund employees and locally engaged civilians. Details of other non-pay related expenditure incurred in respect of part-time and temporary staff is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on mobile telephone *(a)* handsets and *(b)* calls for departmental advisers in 2006-07. [164532]

Derek Twigg: The total cost of mobile telephone handsets and calls for departmental advisers in 2006-07 was £741.

It is not possible to break this figure down between the cost of handsets and calls as this information is not held in the format requested.

Departmental Property

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department on renovation and refurbishment of its properties in each of the last five years. [164374]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Capital expenditure on major refurbishment projects is not readily distinguishable from that on new build projects.

Information on estate expenditure is, however, contained in the departmental annual report and accounts, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Staff

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civil servants in his Department *(a)* transferred to other Government Departments and *(b)* left the civil service in each of the last five years. [162740]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 205-07W.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to publish his Department's autumn performance report. [164874]

Des Browne: As in previous years, we expect to publish the MOD Autumn Performance Report before the Christmas recess.

Departmental Stationery

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much his Department spent on *(a)* stationery and *(b)* office supplies in each year since 2003-04; [164450]

(2) how much his Department spent on *(a)* stationery and *(b)* office supplies in each year since 2003-04. [164807]

Derek Twigg: The information is provided in the following table:

	£ million	
	Stationery	*Office supplies*
2003-04	23.232	5.279
2004-05	23.655	4.3
2005-06	23.513	5.927
2006-07	21.779	6.107
2007-08 (up to 31 October 2007)	11.311	2.931

These figures exclude VAT.

Departmental Written Questions

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason he has refused to make it his policy when citing earlier written replies relevant to an hon. Member's written question, to attach hard copies of those earlier replies provided that they were previously given in reply to other hon. Members. [164731]

Derek Twigg: This information is readily accessible to hon. Members, right hon. Members and their researchers in the *Official Report*. In view of this, it would not be a good use of MOD resources to attach hard copies of the earlier replies.

EU Progress Catalogue 2008

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the EU Progress Catalogue 2008 to be finished. [164428]

Des Browne: The EU Progress Catalogue has been finalised and is due to be presented for approval at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 19 November 2007.

EU Rapid Reaction Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the joint paper by Germany, Portugal and Slovenia on revising the EU's rapid response force. [164429]

Des Browne: There is no EU rapid response force. A copy of the tri-presidency (Germany, Portugal and Slovenia) joint paper on the further development of EU's military crisis response capabilities has been placed in the Library. It should be noted that this paper was offered by the three member states concerned to partners as food for thought. It proposed a revision of the EU's Military Rapid Response concept and discussion continues between member states on the scope for such a review.

Guinea-Bissau: EU Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the status is of the proposed European Security and Defence Policy mission to Guinea Bissau; [164426]

(2) what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on a European Security and Defence Policy mission to Guinea Bissau. [164435]

Des Browne: There have not yet been discussions at ministerial level within the EU of a possible European Security and Defence Policy mission to Guinea-Bissau. There have, however, been preliminary discussions at official level, based on the report of a recent joint Council/Commission fact-finding mission. No decisions have yet been taken.

Ilois: Resettlement

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration has been given to offering Chagos Islanders employment within the UK military attachment on Diego Garcia. [164815]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK military does not employ any civilian workers on Diego Garcia.

Iraq Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many studies his Department has *(a)* started and *(b)* completed into the consequences of the Iraq war for his Department and lessons learnt; and if he will place copies in the Library. [165031]

Des Browne: The Ministry of Defence has conducted five studies into the ongoing operation in Iraq. Of these, "Operations in Iraq: First Reflections" published in July 2003; and "Operations in Iraq: Lessons for the Future" published in December 2003; are already available in the Library. The Directorate of Operational Capability has to date produced three volumes of its Lessons Report on Operation TELIC. I am withholding these reports as their release would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Iraq: Armed Forces

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British troops he expects to be assigned roles in *(a)* training and *(b)* mentoring Iraqi forces following the drawdown of forces in Basra in spring 2008. [163073]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In spring 2008, security responsibility in Basra will have transferred to the Iraqis and our primary focus will be on mentoring and training. The process of refining our more detailed plans is currently ongoing and for this reason we are unable to provide a breakdown in numbers.

Iraq: Civilians

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Iraqi civilians who have worked for the British Government in Iraq will be eligible for the assistance package he announced in his written ministerial statement on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 30WS, on Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [163414]

Des Browne: We estimate some 280 Iraqi civilians currently employed and some 400-500 formerly employed by the British Government (Ministry of Defence, Foreign Office and Department for International Development) may be eligible for assistance. In addition, there are some 320 staff currently employed who may become eligible in the future.

Iraq: Military Equipment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British personnel have roles in *(a)* training and *(b)* mentoring Iraqi forces. [163072]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A battlegroup of approximately 600 based on the 1st Battalion Irish Guards are dedicated to delivering the training, mentoring and monitoring of the Iraqi security forces in Basra and in Baghdad. A small number of naval personnel are also based at Umm Qasr mentoring the Iraqi Navy.

Other elements of the British forces based in Southern Iraq carry out training and mentoring to different elements of the Iraqi security forces, where it is considered that their expertise is most appropriate for the task.

Surface-to-air Missiles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what surface-to-air missile defence assets are in use by British forces in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [162511]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All UK aircraft operating in conditions where they are in range of surface-to-air missiles are equipped with appropriate defensive aid suites.

I am withholding further information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Private Military Security Companies

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures govern the access of private military security companies employed by the Government for British armed forces medical resources and services in Iraq and Afghanistan. [162883]

Des Browne: In common with other MOD contractors, the employees and sub-contractors' employees of private military security companies are provided, free of charge, medical treatment and emergency dental treatment equivalent to that provided to military personnel whilst deployed.

Joint Service Publication 567 lays down the policy enabling the use of civilian contractors in an operational area. DEFCON 697 sets out the medical treatment liability to be incorporated into contracts. I am arranging for copies of both documents to be placed in the Library of the House.

Telephone Allowance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the telephone allowance is in minutes per week for civilian staff posted to *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [164531]

Derek Twigg: All MOD civil servants deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan receive the same 30 minute free telephone call per week entitlement as service personnel on operational duty.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many joint strike fighters will be operationally deployable by 2015; [163035]

(2) how many joint strike fighters he estimates will be in service by 2015. [163037]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1854W.

Marines: Taunton

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to relocate 40 Commando from Norton Manor Barracks in Taunton constituency; and if he will make a statement. [165747]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no plans to relocate 40 Commando Royal Marines from Norton Manor Camp.

Military Bases: Closures

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military bases will be closed over the Christmas period; and how many were closed for Christmas 2006. [163746]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No regular military bases were completely closed over the Christmas period last year and none will completely close this year. Support to current operations and security of bases remain priority tasks and a core of staff will remain on duty over the period to fulfil these tasks.

Military Bases: Finance

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the financial position of each *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Air Force and *(c)* Royal Navy base is. [163745]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

MOD's top level budgets (TLBs) do not uniformly set separate budgets for military bases within their area of responsibility. Some may hold a proportion of their budgets at TLB level with other costs incurred at a local level. The most consistent level of budgetary visibility is at TLB level. Details of each TLB's expenditure is published annually in MOD's Annual Report and Accounts, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Navy: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions the percentage of gapped posts was recorded for a ship at sea in the last 12 months; and what the percentage was in each case. [164433]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 129W.

Nuclear Weapons

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings have taken place between UK and US officials on the research and development of new nuclear weapons, with particular reference to the reliable replacement warhead. [163044]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Davies) on 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2074W. This explained that there is no programme to develop a new UK nuclear warhead but referred to the work currently being undertaken to inform decisions, likely to be taken in the next Parliament, on whether and how we may need to refurbish or replace our current warhead. Some of this work is being undertaken with the United

States under the 1958 UK-US Agreement for Co-operation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defence purposes and includes reference to the proposed US Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW). The UK remains committed to the principle that any future warhead developments are undertaken on a national basis. The RRW remains a US-only programme.

Remembrance Day

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans exist to amend guidelines on the participation of serving members of the armed forces in acts of remembrance at the Cenotaph. [164691]

Derek Twigg: There are no guidelines regarding the participation of serving members of the armed forces in acts of remembrance specifically at the Cenotaph. The Army's Headquarters London District and the Royal British Legion are represented at meetings chaired by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to discuss detailed arrangements for the Remembrance Sunday service and march-past at the Cenotaph, including armed forces participation.

The general guidance in Queen's Regulations with respect to the Day of National Remembrance is that

> "Establishments and units are to conform generally to such arrangements as may be made by local authorities for the celebration of Remembrance Day services."

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Royal British Legion on the participation of senior members of the armed forces in acts of remembrance. [164692]

Derek Twigg: The Secretary of State has not had recent discussions with the Royal British Legion on this question.

Throughout the year, senior members of the armed forces participate in commemorative events, across the world, some of which may involve discussions between the Department and the Royal British Legion about support, including armed forces participation; this includes for example the recent event to mark the dedication of the armed forces memorial at Alrewas in Staffordshire.

Each November, when the nation remembers the sacrifices of all those who served in HM armed forces and died in the service of their country, senior members of the armed forces are present at services of remembrance.

The Army's Headquarters London District also takes part in meetings chaired by the Department for Culture Media and Sport, at which the Royal British Legion are represented, to discuss detailed arrangements for the Remembrance Sunday service and march-past at the Cenotaph, including armed forces participation.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons soldiers recuperating at Headley Court were denied permission to take part in acts of remembrance on 11 November 2007. [164693]

Derek Twigg: Responsibility for the organisation of the ceremony at the Cenotaph rests with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and, for participation in the march-past, with the Royal British Legion (TRBL).

In the week before Remembrance Sunday, DCMS received an approach from TRBL, via the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court, for up to six wounded service personnel and carers to view the ceremony at the Cenotaph. DCMS and TRBL made provision accordingly within a designated disabled viewing area outside the Treasury building; ushers were on hand to provide assistance if required and a disabled toilet was located nearby. On the day, two patients from Headley Court attended the Cenotaph service.

So far as I can establish, neither DCMS nor the Ministry of Defence was consulted about excluding applications from injured service personnel to attend the ceremony or to participate in the march-past.

Reserve Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* voluntary outflow of personnel was from the (i) Territorial Army, (ii) Royal Marines Reserve, (iii) Royal Naval Reserve and (iv) Royal Auxiliary Air Force in the most recent period for which figures are available. [164432]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is not possible to provide Territorial Army figures by outflow reason. The following table shows total intake and outflow for Territorial personnel during the period 1 January 2006 to 28 February 2007.

Inflow and outflow of the Territorial Army by calendar year

Calendar year	*Inflow*	*Outflow*
2006	8,560	9,920
1 January-28 February 2007	1,020	1,700

Notes:
1. The data exclude full time reserve service (FTRS), non-regular permanent staff (NRPS) and mobilised TA but includes the officer training corps (OTC).
2. The data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.
3. Figures are for both officers and soldiers.
4. Inflow figures include all inflow e.g. intake from civil life and intake from other parts of the armed forces, but does not include the inflow of personnel returning from mobilisation.
5. Outflow figures exclude those personnel who became mobilised.
6. Due to ongoing data validation following the introduction of the new Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System, there is no TA information available since 1 March 2007.

It is not possible to provide Royal Naval Reserve or Royal Marine Reserve figures by outflow reason. The following table shows total intake and outflow for the Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Marines Reserve.

	Inflow	*Outflow*
Royal Marine Reserve		
April 2007-October 2007	190	80
Royal Naval Reserve		
October 2006-October 2007	140	240

Note:
The data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

It is not possible to provide Royal Auxiliary Air Force figures by outflow reason. The following table shows total attestations and discharges in the Royal Auxiliary Air Force for the period 1 April 2006-30 September 2007.

Financial year	*Inflow*	*Outflow*
2006-07	320	280
April 2007-September 2007	170	150

Notes:
1. The data include part time volunteer reserves (PTVR) only.
2. Inflow figures include all inflow e.g. intake from civil life and transfers from other units within the armed forces.
3. The data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Rogue States

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his definition of the term rogue state as used in his statement on Ballistic Missile Defence of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 72WS is; whether the term differs from the term countries of concern; when the decision was taken to begin using the term rogue state in relation to UK involvement in the US Ballistic Missile Defence programme; and if he will make a statement. [163938]

Des Browne: The terms "rogue state" and "country of concern" both refer to states that operate outside of or near to the boundaries defined by international agreements and accepted norms of behaviour.

Service Complaints Commissioner

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what knowledge or experience of the armed forces the new Service Complaints Commissioner has. [165967]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Service Complaints Commissioner, Dr. Susan Atkins, does not have any direct knowledge or experience of the armed forces but she does have a wealth of experience in a wide range of areas of relevance to the post of Commissioner.

The Services will undoubtedly benefit from her expertise and independent advice. As its first Chief Executive, she set up the Independent Police Complaints Commission in 2003 and was responsible for the effective management and day-to-day running of the organisation. She has held a number of positions specialising in equality and tackling discrimination, including Deputy Chief Executive of the Equal Opportunities Commission, Director of the Women and Equality Unit with the Cabinet Office and Departmental Equal Opportunities Officer for the Home Office. She has a wealth of experience of working in human resources, policy and operational roles and with a range of different organisations, particularly in the criminal justice sector.

Dr. Atkins will have a comprehensive induction and orientation prior to assuming her duties in January 2008 when it is intended that the new Service complaints process will come into effect.

Sierra Leone: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 11 June 2007, on Sierra Leone: peacekeeping operations, what progress has been made on reconciling casualty data for operations in *(a)* Sierra Leone and *(b)* the Balkans since May 1997. [162225]

Derek Twigg: Work on reconciling casualty data for operations in Sierra Leone and the Balkans is continuing. I will write to the hon. Member when the work is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Submarines

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what operational roles are allocated to the attack submarine fleet; and how many boats must be deployed to fulfil them. [164730]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The roles of attack submarines include strikes against land targets using Tomahawk missiles; anti-submarine and anti-surface unit warfare; insertion and recovery of special forces; surveillance; and reconnaissance. I cannot comment in detail on the operational tasking of attack submarines or the number deployed at any one time, as this would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of the armed forces.

There are currently nine boats available to undertake these tasks. As regards the number available in the future, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 983W.

Territorial Army: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the role is of each unit of the *(a)* Territorial Army and *(b)* cadet forces in Hertfordshire; and if he will make a statement. [165065]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are two Territorial Army units based in Hertfordshire: A detachment of E (Essex and Hertfordshire) Company, 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment in the infantry role based in Hertford; and Evacuation Squadron, 254 (City of Cambridge) General Support Medical Regiment in the medical support role based in Hitchin.

The role of the Army Cadet Force is to: provide progressive cadet training to foster confidence, self reliance, initiative, loyalty and a sense of service to other people; encourage the development of personal powers of practical leadership and the ability to work successfully as a member of a team; stimulate an interest in the Army, its achievements, skills and values; and advise and prepare those considering a career in the Regular or Reserve Forces. There are 24 Army Cadet Force detachments in Hertfordshire.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy: Council Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many individual bankruptcy petitions were received by the official receivers where council tax arrears were mentioned as a significant reason in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [164226]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is not held in a readily available format and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Bankruptcy: Students

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many undergraduate students in England declared themselves bankrupt in each year since 1997. [164205]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is not available from records held centrally by the Insolvency Service.

Certification Officer: Complaints

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints the Certification Officer received in each of the last five years; how many were upheld in whole or in part; and what enforcement action was taken as a result. [164083]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows the total number of decisions made by the Certification Officer in each of the last five reporting years in response to the complaints he received. The Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 provides for the Certification Officer to issue declarations in relation to those complaints where there has been a breach of union statute or rule, and he may issue orders to remedy those breaches. The table indicates the number of declarations and orders he made in each year.

	Decisions	*Declarations*	*Orders*
2006-07	90	13	1
2005-06	42	7	3
2004-05	38	2	1
2003-04	26	5	2
2002-03	37	8	4

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether any of his Department's advisers have declared a conflict of interest; and if he will make a statement. [164234]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [164495]

Mr. McFadden: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers". Copies of the "Model Contract" are available in the Libraries of the House.

Enterprise Act 2002: Insolvency

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the insolvency provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002; and if he will make a statement. [164227]

Mr. McFadden: The Insolvency Service is undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of the Enterprise Act 2002 insolvency provisions, overseen by an evaluation group of independent stakeholders.

The evaluation includes both quantitative and qualitative data collected from various sources over a four-year period, including five pieces of independent academic research and internal analyses of Insolvency Service data. Benchmark information was also obtained regarding the operation and effect of the pre-existing legislation.

Full details of the evaluation are set out in documents available on the Insolvency Service website (www.insolvency.gov.uk).

The final evaluation reports on both the individual and corporate insolvency provisions of the Enterprise Act 2002 are due to be published by the end of 2007.

Fossil Fuels

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the size is of the UK's strategic reserves of *(a)* petroleum and *(b)* gas. [164665]

Malcolm Wicks: EU member states are required by Directive 2006/67/EC (a codification of previous legislation dating from 1968 and 1998) to hold oil stocks equal to 90 days' average daily national consumption during the preceding calendar year. As a crude oil producer, the UK receives a derogation of 25 per cent. on its obligation and is required only to hold stocks equivalent to 67.5 days. The UK also has a stocking obligation to the International Energy Agency, although this is currently lower than the EU obligation and can be covered by the same stocks.

Latest figures for September 2007 show that the UK held oil stocks of 12.6 million tonnes, equivalent to 76 days of consumption. Other than military stocks that are excluded from strategic stockholding, all UK oil stocks are held by industry.

There are no similar such EU directives relating to gas and consequently no compulsory stocks for gas.

Fuel Poverty

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* vulnerable households in fuel poverty in England in each year since 1996. [163846]

Malcolm Wicks: An estimate of the number of households in fuel poverty can be found in Chapter 2 of "The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy; 4th Annual Progress Report 2006" available online at http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file29688.pdf.

Number of households in fuel poverty in England, 1996 to 2004

	1996	1998	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total fuel poor	5.1 (5.5)	3.4 (4.0)	1.7 (2.3)	1.4 (2.0)	1.2 (1.5)	1.2 (1.4)
Vulnerable	4.0 (4.3)	2.8 (3.2)	1.4 (1.9)	1.2 (1.6)	1.0 (1.2)	1.0 (1.1)
Non-vulnerable	1.1 (1.2)	0.6 (0.8)	0.2 (0.4)	0.2 (0.4)	0.2 (0.3)	0.3 (0.3)

Note:
Bracketed figures in millions are based on levels using the basic income definition

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners who live in fuel poverty. [163847]

Malcolm Wicks: The "Detailed Breakdown of Fuel Poverty in England in 2004; Version 1, April 2004", available online at http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file29687.pdf) provides the following breakdown based on household composition.

	Percentage households in group		*Number households in group (Thousand)*			
Household composition —main analysis variable	*Not fuel poor*	*Fuel poor*	*Not fuel poor*	*Fuel poor*	*Total number of households (Thousand)*	*Percentage total fuel poor in group*
Couple, no dependent child(ren), aged 60 or over	96	4	3,223	134	3,356	10.8
One person aged 60 or over	84.9	15.1	2,530	450	2,980	36.4
Combined	90:8	9.2	5,753	584	6,336	47.2

Fuel Poverty: Winter Fuel Payments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners who were lifted out of fuel poverty by the winter fuel allowance in each year since 1997. [163848]

Malcolm Wicks: We estimate that winter fuel payments took 100,000 households out of fuel poverty in 2003 and 2004. This data is available in "The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy; 4th Annual Progress Report 2006" (available online at http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file29688.pdf). They were introduced in 1997. The effect on fuel poverty in 2001 is not available but is likely to be of similar magnitude as 2003 and 2004 given the level of payment was similar.

Heating: Carbon Emissions

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the Greener Futures Initiative and the future of the electric heating industry in the UK. [162666]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR continues to have regular discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the 'Building a Greener Future: policy statement', and the implications it will have for wider energy policy, both at ministerial and official level. These have primarily focused on the coverage and definition of zero carbon homes, the role of clean energy technologies in delivering the zero carbon homes commitment, the impacts on the competitive energy market and the need to maintain consumer protection. I am also a member of the Zero Carbon Homes taskforce, established last year to identify the barriers to implementation of the 2016 zero carbon target and put in place measures to address these. I took part in the meeting of the taskforce on 26 October alongside the Minister for Housing.

We have not however had any direct discussions with CLG on the future of the electric heat industry.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many grants have been made through the Domestic Low Carbon Buildings Programme; and what proportion of valid applications this represented. [164039]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* To 9 November 2007, 7,793 applications for support have been received and 6,593 offers of support have been made (85 per cent. of all applications).

Of these offers 3,407 grants have been made, representing 52 per cent. of all offers and 2,072 have been withdrawn by the applicant or have expired representing 31 per cent. of all offers. In addition some 26 of the 6,593 valid applications have been rejected at the claim stage as a result of not meeting the terms and conditions of the programme. The remainder (1,088, 17 per cent.) have not yet applied for payment of grant.

Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the implications of the Comprehensive Spending Review are for funding of *(a)* the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and *(b)* the decommissioning of nuclear power stations. [162904]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The Comprehensive Spending Review provides the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority with funding to deliver a full programme of nuclear decommissioning and clean up in line with its strategy and business plans.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the decommissioning costs for Magnox power stations if decommissioning starts *(a)* now, *(b)* in 2008 and *(c)* in 2009. [161896]

Malcolm Wicks: None. The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is responsible for estimating the costs of decommissioning at its sites and for delivering safe, effective and efficient clean up and decommissioning. Estimates of the cost of decommissioning its sites, including the NDA's Magnox nuclear power stations are derived from Life Time Plans (cradle to grave estimates of the cost, scope, and schedule of nuclear decommissioning and clean up programmes in respect of the site in question). Details are available on the NDA website at www.nda.gov.uk

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which decommissioning contracts and works at Winfrith have been the subject of a gateway review by the Office of Government Commerce; and which proposals in the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency's three-year business plan will be the subject of future Gateway reviews. [162905]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* There have been two Gateway O reviews by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) carried out at the Winfrith site. Gateway O reviews are strategic assessments of a programme and it is recommended that they are repeated every two years. The Winfrith site restoration programme and the Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor decommissioning have been subject to reviews.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's three-year business plan has identified a requirement for OGC Gateway reviews of the competitions for parent body organisation contracts for the management of the low level waste repository and the Sellafield site.

Nuclear Power Stations: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with Energy Solutions Ltd on the future funding of *(a)* the Southern Bundle of former Magnox sites and *(b)* Berkeley power station. [161894]

Malcolm Wicks: My Department has had no discussions with Energy Solutions Ltd about future finding of the Southern Bundle of former Magnox sites and Berkeley, nor has the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

Nuclear Power Stations: Redundancies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the costs were of *(a)* redundancy and *(b)* severance packages negotiated for former Magnox power station staff in each of the last 10 years for which records are available. [161895]

Malcolm Wicks: The costs of redundancy and severance packages for former Magnox staff which have been published in the Magnox Annual Report and Accounts are as follows:

As at 31 March each year	*£ million*
1998	12
1999	25
2000	14
2001	8
2002	3
2003	7
2004	4
2005	32
2006	9
2007	25

Further information is available on the NDA's website at: www.nda.gov.uk

Nuclear Power Stations: Security

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many security breaches were reported at nuclear power facilities in the United Kingdom in each year since 1997; where each breach occurred; and what the circumstances were of each breach. [164437]

Malcolm Wicks: The information requested could be collated only at disproportionate cost. However, since 2001, the Office for Civil Nuclear Security, the security regulator, has produced an annual report entitled "The state of security in the civil nuclear industry and the effectiveness of security regulation". General information on security breaches and reports made under the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 can be found within these reports, which can be accessed at

http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/ocns/publications.htm

Opinion Leader Research

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many contracts were awarded by his Department and its predecessor to Opinion Leader research in each year since 1997; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Department for each such project. [165267]

Malcolm Wicks: Total payments by the Department to Opinion Leader research for the financial years 2003-04 to 2006-07 have been as follows:

	Payments (£)
2003-04	41,768.26
2004-05	52,702.23
2005-06	115,711.28
2006-07	106,719.37
Total	316,901.14

These figures represent the total cost of all projects. It is not the Department's normal practice to publish the financial details of individual contracts, on the grounds that contracts with these companies are agreed under an implied duty of confidence, and include information that the companies would not want to make public or share with competitors. Information on payments made under contracts issued by the Department is only held centrally from 2003 onwards, and could not be produced for earlier periods without disproportionate cost.

The individual projects carried out by Opinion Leader research and funded by the Department are as follows:

A project commissioned by the Small Business Council to explore small and medium sized enterprises' attitude to regulation. This project was put out to tender in September 2003 and the contract awarded in October 2003. A report 'Evaluation of Government Employment Regulations and Their Impact on Small Business' was published in March 2004.

An assessment of the effectiveness of Government research spending carried out for the former Office of Science and Innovation in 2004 and 2005.

An evaluation, carried out between the autumn of 2006 and June 2007, of the Department's debt advice project, which employed debt advisers giving face-to-face debt advice to the financially excluded. Their report, "Evaluation of the Financial Inclusion Fund Face-to-Face Debt Advice Project" was published on the Department's website in September 2007.

An evaluation of two vulnerable worker pilot projects, set up as part of the Government's 'Success at Work' strategy. This project was put out to tender on 29 September 2006, and the contract awarded on 7 November 2006. The project is ongoing with the contract scheduled to be completed in July 2008.

In addition to the sums above and in the current financial year, Opinion Leader were appointed by the Department, acting through the Central Office of Information, to conduct deliberative research with the public, as one part of the Government's consultation on the future of nuclear power. The project was put out to tender on 11 April 2007 and the contract awarded on 30 April 2007.

In this case, I have already told the House that the total value of the contract is £772,626. Of this amount £655,452 was paid to Opinion Leader for activities associated with the design, delivery and reporting for the public deliberative events, and the remaining £117,174 has been paid to cover the costs of Dialogue by Design, a specialist sub-contractor has managed the online consultation website on behalf of the Department. The final costs of the web-based activity have yet to be determined as they are dependent on the volume of materials received. Opinion Leader's report will be published as part of our response to the consultation.

Post Offices

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* confidentiality agreement which sub-postmasters have been asked to sign in relation to the network change programme and *(b)* the programme's key messages for customers document. [164913]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had on post office closures in Northern Ireland. [164402]

Mr. McFadden: None. Post Office Ltd. (POL) is responsible for implementing the post office transformation programme at a local level. They are developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of parliamentary constituencies.

The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October this year and will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until next July, with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The area plans for Northern Ireland are scheduled to go to public consultation in April 2008. The Government do not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. The final decisions on which post offices will close will be taken by POL in light of the responses received to the area consultations.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many submissions have been received by the six-week consultation over post office closures in *(a)* the Kent Plan Area, *(b)* the East Midlands Plan Area and *(c)* the East Yorkshire with Bassetlaw and North Lincolnshire Plan Area; and if he will make a statement. [165347]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Post Offices: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post office staff have had disciplinary action taken against them for *(a)* breaches of confidentiality and *(b)* failing to deliver network change programme key messages; and if he will make a statement. [164912]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Trade Unions: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer has produced on the use of (i) direct debit mandates, (ii) standing order mandates and (iii) check off payments from salaries for trade union subscriptions. [164084]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has produced guidance on the law relating to the payment of trade union subscriptions direct from pay (a practice known as "check off") in a publication entitled "Payment of union subscriptions through the check off". The Department has not produced guidance on the payment of subscriptions by direct debit mandates and standing order mandates. The Certification Officer has not produced any guidance in these areas.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which trade unions have political funds according to the records held by the Certification Officer; and in what year the fund was established in each case. [164218]

Mr. McFadden: According to the records of the Certification Officer, 28 trade unions have political funds. Their names and the years in which their current political funds were established are given in the following table. The Certification Officer's records begin in 1976.

Name of union	*Date political fund established*
Aspect	2005
Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen	Pre 1976
Association of Revenue and Customs	1989
Bakers Food and Allied Workers' Union	Pre 1976
Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union	1991
Communication Workers Union	1995
Community	2004
Connect; The Union for Professionals in Communications	1983
Educational Institute for Scotland	1988
Fire Brigades Union	Pre 1976
GMB	1989
Musicians Union	Pre 1976
National Association of Colliery Deputies and Shotfirers	Pre 1976
National Association of Schoolmasters and the Union of Woman Teachers	1989
National Union of Mineworkers	Pre 1976
National Union of Mineworkers North Western Cheshire and Cumbria Miners Association	1997
National Union of Rail Maritime and Transport Workers	1990
POA	1995
Prospect	2003
Public and Commercial Services Union	2006
Transport Salaried Staffs Association	Pre 1976
Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians	Pre 1976
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	1988
Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers	Pre 1976
UNISON: The Public Services Union	1993
Unite the Union	2007
Unity	Pre 1976
University and College Union	2006

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations he and his predecessors in the Department for Trade and Industry have specified may act as independent scrutineers for trade union political fund ballots. [164220]

Mr. McFadden: The following categories of individual have been empowered to act as independent scrutineers for trade union political fond ballots:

(a) individuals who have in force a practising certificate issued by the Law Society of England and Wales or the Law Society of Scotland, and

(b) individuals who are qualified to be an auditor of a trade union by virtue of section 34(1) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

The Trade Union Ballots and Elections (Independent Scrutineer Qualifications) Order 1993 sets conditions which disqualify some individuals in these categories from acting as scrutineers.

The following organisations are empowered to act as independent scrutineers for trade union political fond ballots:

Electoral Reform (Ballot Services) Limited;

Election.com Limited;

Popularis Limited; and

Involvement and Participation Association.

The following organisations, who were once empowered to act as independent scrutineers for trade union political fund ballots, are no longer so empowered:

The Electoral Reform Society of Great Britain and Ireland Limited;

The Industrial Society; and

Unity Security Balloting Services Limited.

Wind Power

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the minimum distance from the nearest dwelling at which wind turbines should be located. [164445]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has not set out any guidelines on minimum distance. The distance between occupied dwellings and a wind farm will depend on the particulars of each case and issues such as expected noise levels, visual impact and safety requirements will all need to be factored into determining whether a particular proposal is acceptable.

Wind Power: Bats

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the threat to bats imposed by onshore wind turbines; what assessment he has made of the merits of warning devices being fitted to turbine blades to protect bats from being killed or injured; and if he will make a statement. [162983]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* Under the Town and Country Planning Act, and for consents under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 regime or the Transport and Works Act 1992, wind farm developers are required to consider all environmental aspects of wind energy projects and produce an Environmental Impact Assessment.

In addition, the subject of bat collision with wind turbines in onshore wind farms is one that my officials are monitoring. There is some preliminary UK and Scandinavian information which suggests that bats may avoid areas around radar installations. After reviewing these studies, the Government have commissioned research to assess the effectiveness of radar as a potential means of mitigation to prevent bat collisions with wind turbines. This work is being undertaken by the University of Aberdeen and is expected to be completed in early 2008.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average timescale was for a successful application for *(a)* exceptional leave to enter the UK and *(b)* resettlement in the UK through the UK's Gateway refugee entitlement programme in the last period for which figures are available. [162885]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency has not recently operated any exceptional leave scheme, so it is not possible to provide figures for the average time scale for a successful application. The scheme to assist Iraqi locally engaged staff announced by the Foreign Secretary in his written ministerial statement of 30 October will not confer exceptional leave to enter the UK. They will be considered for entry clearance and, if successful, granted indefinite leave to remain.

The time scale between a case being referred to the UK for resettlement under the UK's Gateway Protection Programme and the time a refugee arrives varies significantly. The timescale is activated at the point which the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees submits a referral to the UK and is considered completed once the caseload of refugees arrive to the receiving local authority. The time frames for referrals under the Gateway programme for the last financial year were between three and eight months.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many individuals' cases have been resolved under the Asylum Case Resolution Programme; and how many of those cases resulted in *(a)* deportation, *(b)* grant of indefinite leave to remain, *(c)* grant of British citizenship and *(d)* another outcome; [164791]

(2) how many paper and electronic records have been processed under the Asylum Case Resolution Programme. [164801]

Mr. Byrne: Lin Homer, the Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency will be writing to the Home Affairs Committee shortly with an update.

Asylum Seekers: Poverty

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of destitute asylum seekers; for what period those asylum seekers have been destitute; and if she will make a statement. [164413]

Mr. Byrne: There is no need for asylum seekers to be destitute. Under section 95 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1999, asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute can apply for support until the decision on their claim has been made and any subsequent appeal has been determined.

Asylum: Applications

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of applications for indefinite leave to remain made by applicants who were *(a)* eligible to be in the UK and *(b)* not eligible to be in the UK were (i) not granted and (ii) granted within (A) 13 weeks, (B) six months, (C) a year, (D) 18 months, (E) two years, (F) two and a half years, (G) three years and (H) longer in each year since 2001. [164677]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* The information requested could only be obtained in the format required by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

However, data for grants of settlement and refusals between 2001 and 2006 are contained in the Home Office Command Papers "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom" for 2004, 2005 and 2006. A copy of the report is in the House of Commons Library.

In the 2004 paper, table 2.1 on page 20 refers to annual refusal figures combining both extensions of leave and settlement.

In the 2005 and 2006 papers, tables 4.2 on pages 62 and 60 respectively give data for grants of settlement and percentage refusals.

The explanatory notes pertaining to settlement should be read in conjunction with these tables.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of applications for asylum made by applicants who were *(a)* eligible to be in the UK and *(b)* not eligible to be in the UK were (i) not granted and (ii) granted within (A) 13 weeks, (B) six months, (C) a year, (D) 18 months, (E) two years, (F) two and a half years, (G) three years and (H) longer in each year since 2001. [164678]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Deportation

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the effectiveness of the Clan Ebor scheme will be measured. [164183]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency intends to review the scheme at the end of December 2007. The review will focus on the number of families that have departed from the UK voluntarily and the reasons why a voluntary departure has not occurred. It will also assess the effectiveness of the scheme in securing up to date information about the circumstances of the families, attendance at case conferences and compliance with reporting restrictions.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what language *(a)* the Clan Ebor questionnaires will be distributed and *(b)* the case conferences element of the Clan Ebor scheme will be conducted. [164184]

Mr. Byrne: The questionnaires are written in English. Case conferences are conducted in the first language of the applicants with the help of an official interpreter.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date the Clan Ebor scheme began. [164185]

Mr. Byrne: The Clan Ebor project began on 22 June 2007.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how participants were selected for the Clan Ebor scheme in West Yorkshire; what criteria were used in this selection process; and what geographical area the scheme will cover. [164186]

Mr. Byrne: Families were selected for inclusion for the project which had had their asylum claim refused, had exhausted all of their appeal rights and did not have any applications for leave outstanding or barriers that would prevent their lawful removal from the United Kingdom. A sample of families from a wide cross-section of nationalities from within the local authority areas of Leeds, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield have been included.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps will be taken against those within the Clan Ebor scheme who do not return the questionnaire in the allotted two-week period. [164187]

Mr. Byrne: Whether or not a questionnaire is returned, participants will be asked to attend a case conference.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice will be available for those selected to take part in the Clan Ebor scheme. [164188]

Mr. Byrne: Participants are advised to research and pursue their voluntary departure from the United Kingdom with the help available from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The families are provided with literature and contact details of the International Organisation for Migration in their own language and it is explained to them that the IOM may be able to provide assistance with travel arrangements, funding and reintegration. As a direct result of this project, IOM has arranged a drop-in centre twice a month in Leeds city centre and families are briefed on how to access this facility. The risk to the family of enforced removal action being taken is also explained.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether families with children under the age of five years have been included in the Clan Ebor scheme. [164196]

Mr. Byrne: Families with children under the age of five are included in the Clan Ebor project.

Asylum: Legal Aid

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support her Department gives to voluntary organisations who provide refused asylum seekers with emergency legal advice and other services; and if she will make a statement. [164414]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency provides grant funding to five voluntary sector organisations for the provision of a network of 25 One Stop Services across the United Kingdom. These One Stop Services provide general support and advice to current and recently refused asylum claimants about the range of statutory and non-statutory support services available. The Border and Immigration Agency funding is not intended to be used to provide legal advice about the asylum process but the voluntary sector agencies will be in a position to signpost to the nearest qualified provider.

British Nationality

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of applications for British citizenship were *(a)* not granted and *(b)* granted within (i) 13 weeks, (ii) six months, (iii) a year, (iv) 18 months, (v) two years, (vi) two and a half years, (vii) three years and (viii) longer in each year since 2001. [164676]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* The information requested could be obtained only in the format required by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

However, statistics on applications and grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom were published in the Home Office statistical bulletin 'Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom, 2006'. This publication is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office website

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

The following table is reproduced from the bulletin and gives the number of applications received, granted and refused from 2001 to 2006.

Applications received and decided 2001 to 2006

	Applications received	*Grants*	*Refusals*	*Percentage refusals*
2001	109,005	90,295	9,530	10
2002	115,500	120,125	8,455	7
2003	147,345	125,535	10,480	8
2004	132,630	140,705	13,650	9
2005	219,115	161,700	16,645	9
2006	149,035	154,095	15,360	9

Source:
Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom, 2006"

Departmental Mobile Phone Bills

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration's mobile telephone bill for the last month for which figures are available. [164776]

Mr. Byrne: The cost to the public purse of the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration's mobile telephone bill for the last month for which figures are available was £4.

Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which buildings occupied by her Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to disabled people; and if she will make a statement. [163829]

Mr. Byrne: No central data are held of the number of buildings occupied by my Department, which are or are not considered to be fully accessible to disabled people.

Where there are access difficulties for disabled people, my Department makes appropriate reasonable adjustments to its arrangements for the recruitment and employment of staff, and the services and functions it delivers to its users, in accordance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of student visa holders from *(a)* India, *(b)* Sri Lanka, *(c)* Pakistan and *(d)* South Africa applied to extend their visa at the end of their initial period in the latest 12 months for which figures are available. [163786]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not recorded in the format required.

Student leave is granted for the duration of the course, therefore can vary greatly. It is not possible to cross reference the extension data for 2006 against the initial leave to enter data for any one previous year therefore it is not possible to provide data in terms of a percentage.

However, data of student visa holders who extended their leave to remain during 2006 can be found in the Home Office Command Paper "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2006" pages 56 and 58 table 4.1. A copy of which is in the House Library.

Human Trafficking: Databases

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to adopt the Interpol global database system that allows border checks to be made on documents to tackle human trafficking. [164484]

Mr. Byrne: On 25 July 2007, the Prime Minister announced that the UK would link to the Interpol Stolen and Lost Travel Documents Database (SLTD) at the border.

Human Trafficking: EU Action

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what incompatibilities there are between the requirements of the Council of Europe Convention on Action on Trafficking in Human Beings and domestic immigration legislation. [164483]

Mr. Byrne: We judge that domestic immigration legislation is already largely compliant with the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. Victims of trafficking can already be identified, supported and where appropriate may be issued with limited or indefinite leave to remain in the UK under the existing legislative framework on immigration. We are currently reviewing whether changes to legislation, policies and procedures are necessary, including as part of the ongoing police-led anti-trafficking operation Pentameter 2, to ensure the United Kingdom is fully compliant with the requirements of the convention. In approaching this task, we will ensure that our arrangements to protect victims of crime, bring those who exploit them to justice, and avoid incentives to misuse the immigration system.

Immigration Controls

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers were under an obligation to report to a reporting centre as at *(a)* 30 June and *(b)* 30 September 2007. [163150]

Mr. Byrne: Records indicate that as at 30 June 2007 and 30 September 2007 there were 3,434 and 3,701 asylum applicants respectively under obligation to report to a reporting centre. This data is based on management information and is not a national statistic. It should be treated as provisional as it is subject to change.

The information does not include asylum seekers reporting at police stations or failed asylum seekers who are subject to reporting restrictions. It refers to asylum seekers who have made an application for asylum and have not yet had an outcome.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on UK embarkation controls; and if she will make a statement. [164050]

Mr. Byrne: There have been no recent representations on UK embarkation controls.

Immigration: Detention Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average operational cost per bed space was in each establishment in the immigration detention estate as at 30 June 2007; and if she will make a statement. [163775]

Mr. Byrne: The average direct budget cost for 2007-08 for operating each establishment in the Immigration Removal Estate is £119 per bed space per day.

M56: Speed Limits

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many speeding tickets have been issued by Cheshire Constabulary in the 40 mph zone on the M56 between Frodsham and Runcorn since the introduction of the zone. [164600]

Mr. Coaker: Information is not collected centrally at the level of detail requested.

Information on the number of fixed penalties and convictions for speeding offences is available at police force level only and does not relate to specific roads or speed limits.

Migration Advisory Committee

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which groups, public bodies and organisations have submitted reports to the Migration Advisory Committee. [164786]

Mr. Byrne: No groups, public bodies and organisations have submitted reports to the Migration Advisory Committee. The MAC will be fully operational by April 2008. On 11 September I announced that Professor David Metcalf has been appointed as the chair of new Migration Advisory Committee (MAC).

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish the submissions to the Migration Advisory Committee. [164795]

Mr. Byrne: The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) is an independent non-statutory non-departmental public body (NDPB). It will produce reports for Government on where in the economy migration can sensibly fill skills gaps. These reports will be made public. It will be for the MAC to decide whether and when it would be appropriate to publish any submissions to the MAC.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by her Department; who the chairman is of each; and to what salary, including bonuses and expenses, each chairman is entitled. [163606]

Mr. Byrne: Non-departmental public bodies sponsored by the Home Office, the budget of each, their remit of each and the chairman of each body, the chairman's remuneration, which includes their bonuses and expenses is published as at 30 March of each year in Public Bodies. Public Bodies can be found on the Home Office external website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/public-appointments-06-07

Police: Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effect of budgetary plans on future police officer numbers, broken down by Government region; and if she will make a statement. [162217]

Mr. McNulty: Government funding allocations to each police authority will be announced shortly. It is for the police authority to set the budget and with the Chief Constable to decide on police officer and police staff numbers.

Police: Fringe Benefits

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* pension and *(b)* other benefits packages are offered to new police constables joining the *(a)* Metropolitan police and *(b)* Hertfordshire constabulary. [163408]

Mr. McNulty: All new entrants to police forces in these two and all other Home Department forces in England and Wales are able to join the Police Pension Scheme 2006, which provides a maximum pension of half final salary and a maximum lump sum of four times annual pension after 35 years service. The scheme also provides other pensions such as those for adult survivors and children.

Police officer pay and benefits are determined nationally and set out in determinations of the Secretary of State made under the Police Regulations 2003. In addition to these national arrangements, newly appointed police constables in the Metropolitan Police Service receive London weighting of £2,055, a London allowance of £4,338 and free travel within a 70 mile radius of London. Newly appointed police constables to the Hertfordshire constabulary receive a South East England allowance of £2,000 a year in addition to the national arrangements.

Police: Muslim Organisation Groups

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines have been issued to police forces on criteria to be applied to formal contacts between the police and Muslim organisations and groups; and if she will make a statement. [164410]

Mr. McNulty: There have been no guidelines issued to police forces on criteria to be applied to formal contacts between the police and Muslim organisations and groups. However, the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) has issued Practice Advice (Professionalising the Business of Neighbourhood Policing) which emphasises the need for neighbourhood police officers to engage with a cross-section of the community to ensure that the views of minority groups are represented. NPIA is supporting the development of the National Muslim Police Association, an organisation we welcome

as an important bridge between the police service and the Muslim community. We have also piloted community engagement training in a number of police basic command units across England and Wales to provide neighbourhood officers with the knowledge and skills they need to achieve this.

Sexual Offences: Registration

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in the exchange of sex offenders registers between the UK and the US. [162292]

Mr. Coaker: We made initial contact with US Department of Justice officials during a visit, earlier this year, which formed part of the Review of the Protection of Children from Sex Offenders. A meeting was conducted specifically to discuss the possibility of developing an arrangement for the exchange of appropriate data on convicted sex offenders between authorities in the UK and USA. This meeting was followed by a letter, at official level, from the Home Office to the Ministry of Justice seeking to progress work in this area. We intend, shortly, to pursue the matter at ministerial level as part of a broader effort to seek closer co-operation in tackling sex offenders.

Special Constables

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many special constables are attached to the Lincolnshire constabulary; [162962]

(2) how many special constables are attached to police constabularies in England and Wales. [162964]

Mr. McNulty: The most recent information available shows that, as at 31 March 2007, there were 171 special constables in Lincolnshire and 14,021 special constables in England and Wales.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many suspects detained under counter-terrorism legislation have been released without charge because of expiry of the 28 days limit on such detention. [164007]

Mr. McNulty: The maximum period that an individual can be held is 28 days. This came into force on 25 July 2006 as part of the Terrorism Act 2006. Six individuals have been held for the maximum 27 to 28 day period. Of these three individuals were charged and three individuals were released without charge.

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the people detained on suspicion of terrorist offences since July 2006 were charged *(a)* before 10 days, *(b)* between 11 and 20 days, *(c)* between 21 and 26 days, *(d)* on the 27th day and *(e)* on the 28th day. [164011]

Mr. McNulty: The 14 day detention period came into effect on 20 January 2004 and the maximum period of detention pre-charge was extended to 28 days with effect from 25 July 2006. The following table, compiled from police records, provides details, to date, of the numbers of individuals charged or released and held from between 14-15 days and through to 27-28 days. We do not collate statistics for the timescales requested.

Pre-charge detention to date

Period of detention (days)	*Number of persons held*	*Charged*	*Released w/o charge*
14-15	1	1	—
18-19	1	1	—
19-20	3	3	—
27-28	6	3	3

Workers Registration Scheme

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the most recent Accession Monitoring Report, what estimate she makes of the number of dependants who have entered the UK with applicants to the Worker Registration Scheme. [164794]

Mr. Byrne: Information concerning the actual number of dependants accompanying A8 nationals is published quarterly in The Accession Monitoring Report. This report currently gives data from 1 May 2004 to 30 June 2007. The information you require is published in table 5 of the report, at the following link:

http://www.ind. homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report

The next Accession Monitoring Report (AMR) will be published on 20 November 2007.

A copy of the AMR will be placed in the House Libraries.

JUSTICE

Administration of Justice: Freemasonry

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether it remains the practice to require new applicants to become magistrates and members of the judiciary to declare membership of the Freemasons; and what declarations were made by each current office holder. [165315]

Maria Eagle: With effect from 1998 anyone appointed for the first time by the Lord Chancellor to judicial office, including the magistracy, has been asked, as a condition of appointment, whether they belong to the Freemasons. They are further asked that they notify the Lord Chancellor if they subsequently join them. These requirements remain in force.

Judicial office holders appointed before 1998 were not required to make a declaration. However, they were invited to make a voluntary declaration and the majority of them did so.

The latest available figures indicate that 5.4 per cent. of judicial office holders and 6.4 per cent. of magistrates have declared that they are freemasons.

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed penalties

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many penalty notices for disorder were issued in each year since their inception; and what estimate he has made of the average administrative cost of issuing such an order. [165424]

Maria Eagle: In 2004 there were 63,639 issued for all offences in England and Wales, rising to 146,481 in 2005. Information for 2006 will be available at the end of November 2007.

The Home Office consultation paper "Strengthening powers to tackle anti-social behaviour" published on 14 November 2006 estimated the cost of a PND, including compliance, enforcement and appeal costs, to be £91 per PND issued.

Courts: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on the establishment of a new courthouse at Colchester. [165908]

Maria Eagle: Work to finalise the outline business case for the Essex magistrates courts scheme, of which Colchester is a part, is being progressed as one of the priorities within the court building programme. This includes the evaluation of procurement routes to ensure the selected route represents best value for money for the taxpayer. The outline business case is due to be completed early in 2008 and submitted for approval to proceed by the end of the financial year.

Crime: Victims

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance has been issued to staff in his Department and its public agencies with regard to the United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power and Annex. [166101]

Maria Eagle: We have not issued guidance relating to this 1985 UN Declaration. However, the Government remain firmly committed to rebalancing the Criminal Justice System in favour of victims and witnesses, as is compliant with the spirit of the Declaration. We have introduced extensive reforms, including a Victims Surcharge to divert money from offenders to victims, given a significant increase in resources to Victim Support, established witness care units to provide tailored support during trial, and introduced a code of practice to give victims statutory rights for the first time. Furthermore our criminal injuries compensation scheme is the most generous within the European Union, paying out some £200 million a year to around 30,000 victims of violent crime.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to review or reform the work of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. [164490]

Maria Eagle: The Government are still considering the future of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority following the public consultation launched by the Green Paper "Rebuilding Lives: supporting victims of crime", and will announce their intention in due course.

Democracy: Young People

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total cost to the public purse was of the speed dating style youth conference held on 9 October. [164861]

Bridget Prentice: The total cost paid out so far, for "Your Vote Counts", the Ministry of Justice's youth conference held on 9 October is £27,465. We are awaiting a few invoices from schools and youth groups for their travel costs, 143 young people (113 from secondary schools and further education establishments and 30 from primary schools) and over 100 adults from schools, youth groups and youth organisations attended the event.

Departmental Flexible Working

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours (i) in the Department and (ii) the executive agencies for which the Department is responsible; [164316]

(2) how many Privy Council staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours in the Privy Council. [164335]

Maria Eagle: All parts of the Ministry of Justice offer flexible working to all staff where operational and business constraints permit as a tool to improve work life balance. The Ministry of Justice offers a wide range of flexible working arrangements—compressed working, flexible start/finish times, term-time working and part-time working. The number of applications for flexible working is not collated centrally so it is not possible to give a figure for the number of staff who work flexibly without incurring disproportionate cost.

Deportation: Jamaica

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government are taking to further negotiations with the Jamaican Government to facilitate the return of Jamaican nationals convicted in the UK to serve their sentence in Jamaica; and if he will make a statement. [164419]

Mr. Hanson: The United Kingdom and Jamaica signed a limited prisoner transfer agreement on 26 June 2007. This is the first prisoner transfer agreement to be signed by the Jamaican Government and it requires changes to Jamaican law before the agreement can enter into force.

Domestic Violence: Homicide

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were killed by their current or former partners in each of the last five years. [163734]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

Information relating to homicides recorded during the period 2001-02 to 2005-06 was published in table 1.05 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence, 2005/2006" (HOSB 02/07) and is shown in the following table.

Homicides currently recorded[1] in England and Wales where victim is partner/ex-partner of principal suspect, 2001-02 to 2005-06[2]

Year offence initially recorded as homicide[3]	*Victim gender*	
	Male	*Female*
2001-02	29	117
2002-03	30	106
2003-04	26	95
2004-05	39	105
2005-06	23	83

[1] As at 9 October 2006; figures are revised as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Data for 2006-07 are scheduled to be published in late January 2008.
[3] Homicide offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.
Source:
Table 1.05 of HOSB 02/07

Driving Under Influence: Drugs

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drivers were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for the offence of driving under the influence of drugs in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [165187]

Maria Eagle: Available but incomplete information on the number of proceedings and findings of guilt for the offence, from 2004 to 2005 (latest available) is provided in the table. The incompleteness is due to some data received by my Department not being able to distinguish between drink and drugs when driving under the influence.

2006 data will be available next year.

Proceedings at magistrates courts and findings of guilt at all courts for the offence of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, England and Wales, 2003-05

Number of offences

Offence type	*2003*		*2004*		*2005*	
	Proceedings	*Findings of guilt*	*Proceedings*	*Findings of guilt*	*Proceedings*	*Findings of guilt*
Unfit to drive through drugs (impairment) [1]	n/a	n/a	319	203	554	363
In charge of motor vehicle while unfit through drugs (impairment) [2]	n/a	n/a	22	15	47	29

n/a = data not available
[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 4 (1)
[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 4 (2)
Notes:
1. Some data providers have been unable to distinguish between drink and drugs when driving under the influence. Such data have been excluded from the table.
2. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
3. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and the courts.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Fixed Penalties

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many penalty charge notices have been issued in each region of the UK in each of the last five years; [164646]

(2) how many penalty charge notices have been issued by each local authority in each of the last five years; [164647]

(3) how many penalty charge notices have been issued by each local authority in each of the last 12 months. [164648]

Maria Eagle: Under the Road Traffic Act 1991, Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) powers allow local authorities to take over responsibility for enforcing breaches of parking regulations from the police. Available information on penalty charge notices issued by result and individual local authority was first published in the annual Home Office publication "Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales 2002, Supplementary tables"—tables 22(a) to 22(b). Copies of the annual publications from 2002 to 2005 (latest available) are available in the Libraries of the House.

Within England and Wales, penalty charge notices data are submitted to the Ministry of Justice on a calendar year basis from local authorities and do not contain a month by month breakdown.

Information on matters arising in Scotland and Northern Ireland are matters for the Scottish Executive and the Northern Ireland Office respectively.

General Election 2005: Ballot Papers

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many ballot papers were rejected at the 2005 General Election. [164092]

Bridget Prentice: At the 2005 UK parliamentary election, the total number of ballot papers that were either rejected at verification or not counted at the count was 182786.

A breakdown of the number of rejected and spoilt ballots can be found on the Electoral Commission's website:

www.electoralcommission.gov.uk.

Judges: Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what process was followed in the appointment of *(a)* Crown, *(b)* county, (c) high and *(d)* Appeal Court judges over the last five years; whether consideration is given to a candidate's stated political views; how many candidates were rejected; and if he will make a statement. [165721]

Mr. Straw: Since April 2006, the independent Judicial Appointments Commission has had the responsibility for appointments and has set out the qualities and abilities it believes are necessary for judicial office. These are: intellectual capacity, personal qualities, the ability to understand and treat fairly, authority and communication skills and efficiency. The Commission determines its own selection processes.

Prior to the transfer of responsibility, the process for selection for appointments varied for different appointments and evolved over time. However, immediately prior to the creation of the Commission, the following general steps formed the outline for all selection exercises for appointments below the High Court: application, consultation, sift and interviews and/or assessment centres. For the final High Court exercise before 2006 the process was the same except that candidates were not interviewed but considered on the papers by the selection panel. For all exercises, applicants were assessed against published criteria for the appointment in question. In addition to the minimum criteria set out in law for appointment to each level of post, applicants have to demonstrate that they have the qualities and abilities needed to successfully take on judicial office, including relevant knowledge and experience, independence, professionalism, judgment and people skills. Information about candidates' political views is neither sought nor taken into account in the selection process.

The following tables set out the numbers of applicants for (save for the Court of Appeal), and appointments to, salaried judicial posts (not including magistrates) in the Courts system for the five-year period 2002-03 to 2006-07, plus appointments to the fee-paid position of Recorder. It is not possible to identify separately appointments to the Crown court and county court as judges on the Circuit Bench and Recorders are deployed to either. District Judges only sit in the county court.

Court of Appeal

	Appointed
2006-07	4
2005-06	4
2004-05	1
2003-04	6
2002-03	2

High Court

	Applicants	Appointed
2006-07	8	
2005-06	129	8
2004-05	128	11
2003-04	174	10
2002-03	57	6

Senior Circuit Judge

	Applicants	Appointed	Rejected
2006-07	[1]—	3	—
2005-06	41	5	36
2004-05	39	6	33
2003-04	41	7	34
2002-03	30	4	26

[1] Appointments made from a combination of pre-JAC exercises and the upgrading of a Circuit Judge post to Senior Circuit Judge.

Circuit Bench

	Applicants	Appointed	Reserve	Rejected
2006-07	[1]—	—	—	—
2005-06	248	42	64	142
2004-05	112	6	28	78
2003-04	207	30	65	112
2002-03	[2]—	—	—	—

[1] No general competition was completed in 2006-07. However, nine vacancies arose in this period, nine posts were filled by candidates who were on the circuit bench reserve list established after the 2005-06 competition.

[2] No general competition was held in 2002-03. However, 39 vacancies arose in this period, 38 posts were filled by candidates who were on the circuit bench reserve list established after the 2001-02 competition.

District Bench

	Applicants	Appointed	Reserve	Rejected
2006-07	[1]—	—	—	—
2005-06	24	13	2	9
2004-05	248	26	27	195
2003-04	29	3	2	24
2002-03	241	15	22	204

[1] No general competition was completed in 2006-07. However, 12 vacancies arose in this period, 12 posts were filled by candidates who were on the district bench reserve list established after the 2005-06 competition.

Recorder

	Applicants	Appointed	Reserve	Rejected
2006-07	350	45	—	305
2005-06	782	162	192	428
2004-05	683	143	—	540
2003-04	267	20	26	221
2002-03	589	93	83	413

Judges: Retirement

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the mandatory retirement age is for *(a)* Crown court judges and *(b)* Law Lords; when this was last increased; what recent representations he has received on the matter; and if he will make a statement; [165722]

(2) what procedures are in place for Crown court judges to apply to continue to work over the age of retirement; and if he will make a statement. [165723]

Mr. Straw: Crown court sittings are mainly undertaken by Circuit Judges and Recorders. The normal mandatory retirement age for Circuit Judges is set at 70 under the Judicial Pensions and Retirement Act 1993, subject to the power of extension year-on-year to an age limit of 75 under ss.26(5) and (6) of the Act and to transitional provisions under which a judge already serving on the implementation of the Act (31 March 1995) retains his pre-existing retirement age. It is currently the policy that Recorders cease to serve at the end of the financial year in which they reach the age of 65. I have received representations from individual Recorders requesting to sit past the age of 65, and the current policy has been confirmed in each case.

The retirement age for Law Lords is set at 70 by the 1993 Act, subject to the transitional provisions already mentioned. In their case there is no provision for the extension of service under s.26 of the Act.

The procedures for continuation of judicial office after normal retirement date are set out in ss.26(5) and (6) of the 1993 Act, as amended by the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, enabling the Lord Chief Justice to extend Circuit Judge appointments with the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor if he considers it desirable in the public interest.

Separately, provisions exist for the appointment of retired Circuit Judges as Deputy Circuit Judges, under s.24 of the Courts Act 1971, as amended by s.55 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. The Lord Chancellor with the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice needs to approve a business case before appointing a retiring Circuit Judge to sit as a DCJ. The age limit for Deputy Circuit Judges is 75.

National Identity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of the consultation on the Statement of British values has been to date including *(a)* external consultancy costs and *(b)* consultations. [164530]

Mr. Wills: No consultation or external consultancy costs have been incurred to date in developing the process of public engagement to develop a British statement of values.

Work is still under way on finalising plans for the consultation process, but Parliament and the public can be assured that the Government will look for value for money in carrying out this programme.

Offenders: Drugs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders were recorded as being *(a)* drug free and *(b)* having a drug addiction on release from prison in the last year for which figures are available. [164813]

Mr. Hanson: A comprehensive drug treatment framework is in place in prisons to address the varying needs of low, moderate and severe drug mis-users and which encourages prisoners to stay off illegal drugs. The number of offenders recorded as drug free or having a drug addiction on release is not recorded. Research evidence however reports that post-release misuse is not as high as pre-prison usage. Research also shows that prison is one of the key influences in getting people off drugs. Overall, prison contributes to a significant reduction in drug misuse for the majority of prisoners.

Peers: Taxation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will include in any forthcoming legislation on Lords reform a requirement that all members of the second chamber sign a declaration annually confirming that they are UK residents for tax purposes. [165027]

Bridget Prentice: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor outlined Government plans on the immediate next steps on House of Lords reform in his statement on 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 449. My Department hopes to be able to publish a further White Paper shortly, with the aim of producing draft clauses that would form elements of the final draft Bill and formulating comprehensive reform proposals through the work of the cross-party working group on Lords reform.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government's plans to bring forward legislation on reform of party funding will include measures on *(a)* reform of the Electoral Commission and *(b)* a cap on donations. [164078]

Mr. Straw: Following the suspension of the inter-party talks chaired by Sir Hayden Phillips on 30 October 2007, the Government are considering the detail of proposals on party funding and expenditure.

The Government will shortly publish their response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life's review of the Electoral Commission.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he received from trade unions on the financing of political parties in the last 12 months. [164082]

Mr. Straw: In my capacity as one of my party's representatives involved in the cross party talks and inquiry led by Sir Hayden Phillips I discussed the issue of party funding with affiliated trade union representatives, and many others, on many occasions. The Labour party evidence to the Phillips inquiry, reflecting much of these discussions, is in the public domain.

In my capacity as Secretary of State for Justice, I have received no representations from trade unions on the financing of political parties.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government plan to consult before publishing proposals on the regulation of party funding and expenditure. [164086]

Mr. Straw: The Government are considering currently what steps to take ahead of bringing forward proposals on the regulation of party funding and expenditure, and have been well informed of the parties' views by the parties' contributions to the Sir Hayden Phillips inquiry. The Review of the Funding of Political Parties, chaired by Sir Hayden Phillips conducted wide-ranging consultation with both political parties and the wider public.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will *(a)* place in the Library and *(b)* publish the background papers produced by Sir Hayden Phillips and circulated to the political parties during the inter-party talks on party funding. [164087]

Mr. Straw: It is for Sir Hayden Phillips to determine what papers are released and not me. Sir Hayden has already published the draft agreement which he proposed to the parties in late August.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the emails, papers and correspondence produced by Sir Hayden Phillips and his team during the inter-party talks on party funding are deemed to be held by the Ministry for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [164088]

Mr. Straw: Sir Hayden Phillips's records are not deemed to be held by or on behalf of the Ministry of Justice for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, correspondence and copies of records sent by Sir Hayden Phillips to the Ministry of Justice are held by the Ministry of Justice for the purposes of the Act.

Prison Service: Pay

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the starting salary of a prison officer was *(a)* in 1997, *(b)* in 1997 in 2007 prices and *(c)* in 2007. [163353]

Mr. Hanson: Prison officer starting salary in May 1997 was £14,430. If this was adjusted by the rate of inflation, it would be £18,398. Changes have been made to the progression on pay scales to ensure new entrants progress much quicker. Progression to the pay maximum for a new entrant in 2007 now takes a total of six years; in 1997 it took 15 years. Prison officer salary after six years in 1997 would be £23,409, if increased to 2007-08 prices, with a further nine years to reach the maximum. Prison officer salary after six years service in 2007 would be £23,872, with a further two years to reach the maximum. I also refer the hon. Gentleman to my previous answer on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1148W.

Prisoners

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* Chinese and *(b)* Nigerian nationals are in prison in the UK; [166186]

(2) how many *(a)* Lithuanian and *(b)* Slovenian nationals are in prison in the UK; [166187]

(3) how many *(a)* Bulgarian and *(b)* Romanian nationals are in prison in the UK; [166188]

(4) how many *(a)* Polish and *(b)* Estonian nationals are in prison in the UK. [166189]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is published quarterly for England and Wales, within the regular prison population in custody statistics available from the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

The following table shows the information requested:

Foreign national prisoners by nationality in prison establishments in England and Wales September 2007

	Number
China	349
Nigeria	1,098
Lithuania	203
Slovenia	5
Bulgaria	33
Romania	140
Poland	362
Estonia	22

Note:
Figures available from website: http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/population-in-custodySep07.pdf

Information on the numbers of foreign national prisoners serving prison sentences in prison establishments in Scotland and Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Prison Service respectively.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners Release: Voting Rights

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether prisoners on *(a)* end of custody licence, *(b)* release on temporary licence and *(c)* home detention curfew are eligible to vote if registered. [164179]

Bridget Prentice: Prisoners who are "detained in a penal institution" are ineligible to vote in all UK elections.

Alcohol Dependency

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the incidence of serious alcohol dependency was among prisoners in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make it his policy to record the level of funding given for the provision of treatment and rehabilitation of people with an alcohol dependency within the criminal justice system. [164819]

Mr. Hanson: Data on the incidence of serious alcohol dependency are not recorded. Research carried out by the Office for National Statistics reported that 7 per cent. of those coming into prison had high treatment needs, which is a good indication of dependency.

Alcohol treatment and rehabilitation services for those with an alcohol dependency in prisons are in the main provided within the wider drug treatment framework. The proportion of funding specifically allocated for alcohol is not disaggregated.

Prisoners: Deportation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to grant magistrates the power to deport foreign criminals. [163735]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

Magistrates already have the power to recommend foreign nationals for deportation under section 3(6) of the Immigration Act 1971.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with which countries the Government have concluded formal agreements for the return of foreign prisoners to serve a proportion of their sentence in their home country; [164809]

(2) what payments the Government have made to foreign countries for the transfer of foreign nationals imprisoned in the UK to serve the final part of their sentence in their home country. [164810]

Mr. Hanson: The United Kingdom is a party to two multi-party prisoner transfer agreements, the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, and the Commonwealth Scheme for the Transfer of Convicted Offenders. In addition, the United Kingdom has concluded a small number of bilateral prisoner transfer agreements. The following lists those countries and territories with which the United Kingdom has a prisoner transfer arrangement.

No payments have been made to foreign countries for the transfer of prisoners to serve the remainder of their sentence.

Countries and Territories with which the United Kingdom has a Prisoner Transfer Agreement

Albania
America
Andorra
Anguilla
Antigua and Barbuda
Armenia
Aruba
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Barbados
Belgium
Bermuda
Bolivia
Bosnia Herzegovina
Bouvet Island
Brazil
British Indian Ocean Territories
British Virgin Islands
Bulgaria
Canada
Cayman Islands
Chile
Cook Islands
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Dutch Antilies
Ecuador
Egypt
Estonia
Falkland Islands
Faroe Islands
Finland
France
Georgia
Gibraltar
Germany
Greece
Grenada
Henderson, Ducie and Oeno
Hong Kong
Hungary
Iceland
India
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Korea
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Macedonia
Malawi
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Moldova
Montserrat
Montenegro
Morocco
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Norway
Panama
Peru
Peter I Island
Pitcairn
Poland

Portugal
Queen Maud Land
Romania
Samoa
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sri Lanka
St. Helena and Dependencies
Sovereign Base Areas Cyprus
Suriname
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Turkey
Uganda
Ukraine
Venezuela.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with which foreign states the UK has arrangements for the return of prisoners to their home country to complete their prison sentences; how many nationals of such countries are currently in UK prisons; and how many prisoners the Government expect to be returned as a result of the arrangements in place. [163779]

Mr. Hanson: The countries and territories with which the United Kingdom has a prisoner transfer arrangement and the number of prisoners held in England and Wales from each of those countries are given in the following table.

In the Police and Justice Act 2006 the Government amended the Repatriation of Prisoners Act 1984 to enable prisoners to be transferred without their consent where the relevant international agreement does not require it. Subject to the views of the other Governments concerned, the United Kingdom will, in the future, seek to negotiate prisoners transfer agreements which do not enable prisoner to prevent transfer by withholding their consent. However, each of the agreements listed below requires the consent of both states involved, as well as that of the prisoner concerned. As a consequence it is not possible to say how many prisoners will be transferred under these agreements in the future.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last individual, the figure may not be accurate to that level.

The figures in the following table relate to England and Wales only.

Countries with which the United Kingdom has a prisoner transfer agreement and the number of prisoners from each of those countries held in prisons in England and Wales as at 30 September 2007

	Number
Albania	122
Andorra	—
Anguilla	1
Antigua and Barbuda/Dutch Antilles[1]	10
Armenia	5
Aruba	—
Australia	19
Austria	11
Azerbaijan	3
Bahamas	5
Barbados	27
Belgium	32
Bermuda	4
Bolivia	4
Bosnia Herzegovina	5
Bouvet Island	—
Brazil	51
British Indian Ocean Territories	1
British Virgin Islands	—
Bulgaria	15
Canada	19
Cayman Islands	—
Chile	8
Cook Islands[1]	n/k
Costa Rica	3
Croatia	91
Cuba	—
Cyprus	38
Czech Republic	38
Denmark	4
Ecuador	8
Egypt	8
Estonia	16
Falkland Islands	—
Faroe Islands	—
Finland	3
France	104
Georgia	12
Gibraltar	2
Germany	105
Greece	14
Grenada	14
Henderson, Ducie and Oeno[1]	—
Hong Kong	5
Hungary	16
Iceland	1
India	204
Ireland	554
Israel	14
Italy	76
Japan	1
Korea	5
Latvia	37
Liechtenstein	—
Lithuania	131
Luxembourg	—
Macedonia	—
Malawi	9

Countries with which the United Kingdom has a prisoner transfer agreement and the number of prisoners from each of those countries held in prisons in England and Wales as at 30 September 2007

	Number
Malta	5
Mauritius	13
Mexico	18
Moldova	21
Montserrat	10
Morocco	28
Netherlands	92
Nicaragua	—
Norway	5
Panama	3
Peru	3
Peter I Island[1]	—
Pitcairn	—
Poland	203
Portugal	148
Queen Maud Land[1]	—
Romania	76
Samoa	—
San Marino	1
Serbia/Montenegro[2]	56
Slovakia	12
Slovenia	5
Spain	57
Sri Lanka	86
St. Helena and Dependencies	—
Sovereign Base Areas Cyprus	—
Suriname	10
Sweden	7
Switzerland	6
Thailand	5
Tonga	—
Trinidad and Tobago	78
Turkey	150
Uganda	56
Ukraine[1]	n/k
United States of America	89
Venezuela	19
Other	8

[1] We cannot separately identify all nationalities with which we have a prisoner transfer agreement. These are as follows:
Ukraine is included with Russia (We do not have a prisoner transfer agreement with Russia) Cook Islands are included with New Zealand (We do not have a prisoner transfer agreement with New Zealand).
Antigua and Barbuda are included with the Dutch Antilles. We have prisoner transfer agreements with both Antigua and Barbuda and the Dutch Antilles.
Queen Maud Land and Peter I Island are included in Other.
Henderson, Ducie and Oeno are included with Portugal. We have a prisoner transfer agreement with both the Islands and with Portugal.
[2] Serbia and Montenegro are recorded together but since the separation on Montenegro from Serbia, Montenegro is a signatory to the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons in its own right.

Prisoners: Females

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many women were sentenced to prison in each year since 2000; [164407]

(2) how many women were imprisoned in each year since 1997. [165454]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is contained in the following table.

	Number of women sentenced to immediate custody in England and Wales
1997	5,506
1998	6,567
1999	7,504
2000	7,900
2001	8,061
2002	8,831
2003	8,810
2004	8,754
2005	8,281

Figures for 2006 will be published in mid-December.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the percentage of prisoners who have taken illegal drugs while in prison in the latest period for which figures are available. [164817]

Mr. Hanson: The best measure of drug misuse in prisons is provided by the random mandatory drug testing programme. The positive rate for 2006-07 was 8.8 per cent.

Prisons: Television

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many television sets have been bought by the prison service in each year since 1997; and what the cost of such purchases was in each year. [164565]

Maria Eagle: There are two categories of television set purchasing in the Prison Service. Firstly, there are the sets purchased by the Prison Service for use in communal areas within prisons and, where appropriate, office locations across the service. Details of the sets purchased in these circumstances are not recorded centrally, and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Secondly, since 1998 there has been a programme of purchasing television sets for prisoners' use in their cells. The number of sets purchased in these circumstances are as follows:

	Number of sets purchased
1998-99	10,388
1999-2000	4,938
2000-01	13,580
2001-02	8,488
2002-03	12,616

	Number of sets purchased
2003-04	5,975
2004-05	13,791
2005-06	9,171
2006-07	12,450

The costs information of these purchases is classed as commercially sensitive. However with the exception of 1998-99 when £500,000 of public funds were used to start up the In-Cell TV initiative, all of these sets have been funded from the weekly rental charges collected from prisoners.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners receive Sky or other digital television services in their cells; and what the cost to the Prison Service was of prisoners receiving such services in their cells in financial year 2006-07. [164781]

Maria Eagle: No prisoners in public sector prisons now receive Sky or other television channels in their cells for which a subscription is payable. Where it was previously provided, the cost cannot be separated from the subscriptions for Sky TV in communal areas. In advance of the national conversion to digital reception, some prisoners on the enhanced privilege level have been allowed receivers for free-to-air digital in cell, often at their own expense. No new Freeview boxes have been permitted since October 2006. Details of those previously provided at Prison Service expense, and the cost, are not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

To date, in-cell television installations in 22 prison establishments have been converted to receive digital broadcasts as part of the national conversion from analogue. The cost (£545,781 (excluding VAT) in 2006-07) is being covered from the rental paid by individual prisoners.

In three contracted prisons—Altcourse, Lowdham Grange and Parc—1,230 prisoners have limited access to Sky TV in cell as an earned privilege. The number of eligible prisoners varies daily. The cost is met by the contractors.

Street Offences Act 1959

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offences under the Street Offences Act 1959 there were in each year since 1997; and how many of those convicted were *(a)* 16 or 17-years-old and *(b)* 18 years or older. [164405]

Maria Eagle: The information requested on the number of defendants found guilty under the Street Offences Act 1959 in England and Wales for the years 1997-2005 is provided in the following table. Information for 2006 will be available at the end of November 2007.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts under the Street Offences Act 1959 section 1, England and Wales 1997 to 2005[1, 2]

	16-17	18 and over	All ages
1997	146	5,543	5,695
1998	109	5,112	5,223
1999	38	3,339	3,378
2000[3]	21	3,374	3,397
2001	6	2,834	2,841
2002	6	2,662	2,668
2003	3	2,624	2,627
2004	3	1,732	1,735
2005	0	1,115	1,116

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:

Court proceedings database held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform. Our ref. IOS 396-07 (Table).

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what meetings he has had with trade union representatives in the last 12 months. [164081]

Mr. Straw: Since I became the Secretary of State for Justice in late June 2007, I have met with trade union representatives on six occasions regarding departmental business.

These have been with representatives from the Prison Officers Association, the Prison Governors Association, the Prison Service Joint Industrial Council, the Transport and General Workers Union, Amicus, GMB, Unison and the Trade Union Congress.

If the right hon. Gentleman wish to know about my time as Leader of the Commons please let me know.

Violent and Sex Offender Register

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps have been taken to make access to the Violent and Sex Offender Register compliant with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. [163729]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice and The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) fully support the important principle that their employees have equality of access to technology and the tools which underpin their daily work. We are working closely with The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), which owns the ViSOR system, our suppliers and assisted technology users within NOMS to identify the changes required to ViSOR to make it compatible with assistive technologies. Initial results suggest it is already compliant in many areas but further tests are being scheduled.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the training database for the Violent and Sex Offender Register is available in all Probation Board areas in England and Wales. [163919]

Maria Eagle: Access to the ViSOR training database, hosted at National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) Hendon, is in the process of being made available to all Probation Board areas. This work is being progressed as part of the current deployment of ViSOR to the National Probation Service.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the timetable is for the deployment by police authorities and probation areas in England and Wales of the Violent and Sex Offender Register. [163920]

Maria Eagle: The deployment of ViSOR to police forces in England and Wales was completed by the Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO), in March 2005. Deployment to probation areas commenced on 1 October 2007 and is scheduled to complete in spring 2008.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what his Department's expenditure on the Violent and Sex Offender Register is in each financial year of the lifetime of the project; [163921]

(2) how much his Department has spent on the Violent and Sex Offender's Register in each financial year of the project; and how much has been allocated to the project for each financial year within the existing planning horizon. [164061]

Maria Eagle: Existing and planned expenditure by the Ministry of Justice between 2005 and 2015 on the deployment of ViSOR into the National Offender Management Service is:

Financial year	*Expenditure (£ million)*
2005-06	2.79
2006-07	3.5
2007-08	7.15
2008-09	[1]3.66
2009-10	[1]2.91
2010-11	[1]5.03
2011-12	[1]3.05
2012-13	[1]3.54
2013-14	[1]2.77
2014-15	[1]2.78
Total	37.18

[1] Includes £1 million per annum contribution, shared between probation boards, to ViSOR running costs.

Funding allocations to the project over the lifetime of the ViSOR business case (2005-15) are as follows:

Financial year	*Expenditure/Allocations (£ million)*
2005-06	2.79
2006-07	3.5
2007-08	7.15
2008-09	2.66
2009-10	1.91
2010-11	4.03
2011-12	2.05
2012-13	2.54
2013-14	1.77
2014-15	1.78
Total	30.18

Costs include depreciation and cost of capital.

Young Offenders

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young people under 18-years-old were found guilty of *(a)* vehicle crime, *(b)* domestic burglary and *(c)* robbery in each of the Government office regions in (i) England and (ii) Wales in each year since 2000. [165186]

Maria Eagle: The information requested covering the offences of (i) burglary and aggravated burglary in a dwelling (ii) robbery and vehicle crime comprising (iii) theft of a motor vehicle and (iv) theft from a motor vehicle is provided in the following tables.

Data for 2006 will be available at the end of November 2007.

Number of offenders aged 10-17 found guilty at all courts for selected offences, by region, England and Wales 2000-05[1,2,3]

	Burglary and aggravated burglary in a dwelling					
Region	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
England						
North East	258	248	267	216	181	195
North West	616	531	627	536	621	694
Yorkshire and the Humber	503	495	450	399	491	466
East Midlands	387	307	344	315	276	302
West Midlands	431	381	343	344	354	354
East of England	234	201	253	277	284	290
London	306	279	286	310	322	347
South East	389	349	347	366	361	378
South West	209	203	193	183	192	183
Total England	3,333	2,994	3,110	2,946	3,082	3,209
Wales	287	319	259	253	241	213
Total	3,620	3,313	3,369	3,199	3,323	3,422

Region	Robbery 2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
England						
North East	117	111	84	106	83	68
North West	323	396	411	448	405	432
Yorkshire and the Humber	188	243	281	294	322	301
East Midlands	161	180	230	207	244	210
West Midlands	321	420	412	306	437	409
East of England	87	131	129	122	120	193
London	707	988	865	784	1,010	1,106
South East	164	184	239	202	198	204
South West	92	80	91	108	89	108
Total England	2,160	2,733	2,742	2,577	2,908	3,031
Wales	65	59	65	64	56	48
Total	2,225	2,792	2,807	2,641	2,964	3,079

Region	Vehicle crime[4] 2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
England						
North East	92	74	97	100	62	45
North West	196	155	155	131	168	153
Yorkshire and the Humber	165	180	155	170	163	190
East Midlands	142	147	106	95	108	71
West Midlands	142	110	137	117	138	83
East of England	144	127	146	143	87	90
London	108	122	98	77	98	90
South East	155	132	114	139	115	120
South West	49	36	34	34	46	50
Total England	1,193	1,083	1,042	1,006	985	892
Wales	48	37	37	42	76	56
Total	1,241	1,120	1,079	1,048	1,061	948

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Staffordshire police force were only able to supply a sample of data for magistrates courts proceedings covering one full week in each quarter for 2000. Estimates based on this sample are included in the figures, as they are considered sufficiently robust at this high level of analysis.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Includes offences of theft of a vehicle and theft from a vehicle.
Source:
Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Young Offenders: Fines

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether it is the policy of the Courts Service to pursue parents for fines levied against juvenile offenders where a parent of the offender was the victim of the offence. [164404]

Maria Eagle: The decision to impose a fine on a juvenile or the parents is a matter for the court, in exercise of its judicial discretion. Under section 137 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000, where a child aged 10 to 15 is dealt with by way of a financial penalty, the court has a duty to order that the fine, compensation or costs awarded be paid by the parent or guardian, unless they cannot be found or it would be unreasonable to do so. In the case of a young person aged 16 or more the court has discretion to make such an order as opposed to a duty.

Her Majesty's Courts Service has a duty to collect the fine from whomever the court has made the order against.

Youth Offending Teams: Finance

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average budget was for a youth offending team in each of the last seven years. [165405]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is contained in the following table.

	£ million YOT average budget
2002-03	1.3
2003-04	1.41
2004-05	1.49
2005-06	1.57
2006-07	1.63

Source:
Youth Justice Board. Data are not available prior to 2002-03.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much total funding was provided by statutory agencies for youth offending teams in each of the last seven years; and how much of that was provided by each agency. [165406]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is contained in the following table.

	YJB	Police	Probation	Social Services	Education	Health	LA	£ million Total
2002-03	46.7	19.2	16.2	83.7	13.8	9.5	13.1	202.0
2003-04	47.5	20.9	17.2	89.5	14.3	10.1	18.3	217.8
2004-05	48.7	22.1	17.6	94.7	13.4	11.1	23.8	231.4
2005-06	50.4	23.4	17.5	101.9	12.6	11.7	28.0	245.5
2006-07	51.3	23.1	18.0	101.2	20.9	12.4	27.5	254.4
Total	244.4	108.7	86.5	470.7	75.0	54.8	110.7	—

Source:
Youth Justice Board. data are not available prior to 2002-03.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's personnel are in each province of Afghanistan; what their role is in each province; and if he will make a statement. [163772]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: On security grounds, we do not reveal the location of DFID personnel in Afghanistan

Burundi: Asylum

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance has been given to aid the return of Burundi refugees from Tanzania and Uganda to their homes. [163909]

Mr. Thomas: There are approximately 300,000 Burundi refugees in Northern Tanzania, many of whom have been there for more than 30 years. Following the joint decision by the Governments of Burundi and Tanzania to speed up refugee returns, some 100,000 of these will return home by the middle of 2008. Most of the remaining 200,000 are expected to apply for Tanzanian nationality. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there are 1,323 Burundians in Uganda. We are not aware of their imminent return, but all would be entitled to UNHCR's returnee assistance package (excluding cash grants) on voluntary return, and to inclusion in its reintegration and protection activities in Burundi.

DFID Burundi has provided £1.1 million to UNHCR to fund continued cash grants (agreed as a means of encouraging return) to refugees repatriating from Tanzania. A further £350,000 has been contributed to the World Food Programme's Protracted Refugee and Relief Operation for Burundi, primarily to support additional food needs within the refugee return programme.

Burundi: Overseas Aid

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was given in aid to Burundi over the last five years; and what conditionality was attached to it. [163925]

Mr. Thomas: Information on UK aid to Burundi is available in the DFID publication 'Statistics on International Development 2007'. This publication is available online at www.dfid.gov.uk.

Relevant figures are reproduced in the following tables.

Table 1: UK total bilateral gross public expenditure on development 2002-03—2006-07

	£000 Burundi
2002-03	1,934
2003-04	3,407
2004-05	5,612
2005-06	11,959
2006-07	9,672

Table 2: Imputed UK share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) 200 -05

	£000 Burundi
2001	6,190
2002	3,893
2003	8,473
2004	6,689
2005	10,752

Most of the bilateral funding for 2002-2005 was humanitarian aid and not subject to conditionality. With the transition from emergency funding in late 2005/ early 2006, DFID has applied its policy that all UK aid is dependent on partner's commitment to reducing poverty, respecting human rights and other international obligations and strengthening financial management and accountability. There has been no specific conditionally,

except in the case for our support to the President's free health care initiative, where we sought written confirmation from the Ministry of Finance that sufficient funds would be available to the Ministry of Health to continue the initiative in 2008. We put in place monitoring arrangements for all our aid, to ensure that it is spent as intended and achieves its objectives. Non- governmental organisations and UN partners monitored humanitarian assistance on our behalf to ensure it reached beneficiaries.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

Mr. Joyce: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations his Department has made in relation to the time taken to begin the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [163883]

Mr. Thomas: The UK is working closely with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the World Bank and the Belgian and German Governments towards full implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in the DRC from January 2008. We have repeatedly discussed the importance of progress on the EITI with the Ministry of Planning, which is leading the initiative for the DRC Government.

Together with our international partners, we have been instrumental in getting the EITI process back on track following a period of inaction caused by the elections in 2006. At its annual meeting in September this year, the EITI Secretariat noted the strong progress made by the DRC and granted the DRC Government until the end of 2007 to comply with the EITI pre-validation conditions. We are advised that these will be met by the end of the year, paving the way for full implementation in the new year.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the full-time equivalent headcount in his Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for his Department is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [163975]

Mr. Malik: At 31 October 2007, DFID employed 1,675 home civil service staff on a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis and 849 FTE staff appointed in country (SAIC) who work overseas on local terms and conditions of service.

Headcount projections for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 financial years have yet to be established. DFID is currently considering the staffing implications of the CSR 2007 financial settlement, which requires the Department to make savings in administration costs over the three years of the settlement period.

Forced Labour: Cocoa

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the extent of use of child labour in the cocoa supply chain in developing countries. [165042]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has not made an assessment of the level of child labour in cocoa production. We are aware of some pilot surveys, such as that by the Ghana Cocoa Board, however this is an area in which it is difficult to get accurate data.

It is clear that agriculture remains the sector in which child labour is most prevalent. The International Labour Organisation estimates that globally there are over 132 million child labourers in agriculture. This represents 70 per cent. of all child labour.

Overseas Aid

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessments his Department makes of the effectiveness of administering aid through multilateral institutions; and what account is taken of these assessments in deciding on the level of funding administered through multilateral institutions. [162718]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has compiled Multilateral Development Effectiveness Summaries for 15 key multilateral partners including the EC, United Nations Development Programme, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, UNICEF, UNAIDS, United Nations Population Fund, World Health Organisation and the Global Fund for Aids, TB and Malaria. These distil information about how well individual organisations manage their resources, contribute to results on the ground, are building for the future and are working with others. While they do not measure the merits of the organisation's development objectives, the MDES are a useful tool for assessing organisational effectiveness.

The MDES draw on various published data sources including: surveys carried out by the Multilateral Organisations Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN), a group of 10 donors, including DFID, assessing effectiveness at the country level; the Paris Indicators on Aid Effectiveness monitoring exercise; and performance reporting by the multilateral themselves. The findings of the MDES show a range of performance across the multilateral system. Where gaps and weaknesses have been identified, we are using these findings to inform our ongoing policy dialogue on effectiveness with the agencies concerned.

Information on multilateral effectiveness is one of a number of issues taken into account in making resource allocation decisions across the multilateral system. These include existing legal commitments, progress on reform of the agency concerned, the quality of its leadership and the specific role it plays within the overall international development architecture.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the relative effectiveness of administering aid through multilateral institutions and bilaterally. [162719]

Mr. Thomas: UK aid resources are allocated to ensure the maximum total impact on poverty reduction and achieving the Millennium Development Goals

(MDGs). We use a combination of channels, instruments and interventions which complement and build on each other's strengths. Allocations are informed by robust evidence of the effectiveness of different channels and institutions.

DFID has compiled Multilateral Development Effectiveness Summaries for 15 key multilateral partners. These distil information from various published data sources about how well individual organisations manage their resources, contribute to results on the ground, are building for the future and are working together. While they do not measure the merits of the organisation's development objectives, the MDBS are a useful tool for assessing organisational effectiveness. The findings of the MDES show a range of performance across the multilateral system. Where gaps and weaknesses have been identified, we are using these findings to inform our ongoing policy dialogue on effectiveness of the agencies concerned.

Bilateral projects and country programmes are assessed for their contribution towards international development goals, against countries' own objectives, DFID corporate targets and international commitments on aid effectiveness. This is complemented by in-depth project, country programme, thematic and international evaluations.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much and what proportion of his Department's aid budget was administered through multilateral institutions in each of the last five years. [162735]

Mr. Thomas: A summary of DFID's multilateral assistance over the last five years is set out in the following table. These figures do not include the element of DFID funding channelled through multilaterals which is classified as bilateral assistance under DAC statistical reporting directives.

DFID multilateral assistance, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Total multilateral assistance (£ million)	*Proportion of total DFID programme (percentage)*
2002-03	1,490	44
2003-04	1,832	46
2004-05	1,611	41
2005-06	1,725	39
2006-07	2,126	43

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* nature and *(b)* financial value was of development assistance given to the Pakistani government in each of the last three financial years; what planned expenditure is on such assistance in the (i) current and (ii) next financial year; which elements of such assistance are under review following the suspension of the Pakistani constitution; and if he will make a statement. [162094]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* DFID's development assistance to the Government of Pakistan in the last three years has included a mix of financial aid, technical cooperation and humanitarian assistance. This has supported programmes to deliver basic services, improve governance and accelerate income growth.

Expenditure for each of the last three financial years was as follows:

	£
2004-05	31,377,000
2005-06	97,413,000
2006-07	101,118,000

Our Pakistan development programme is framed by a 10-year Development Partnership Agreement (DPA) signed in 2006. by Prime Ministers Blair and Aziz. The DPA envisages doubling the UK aid programme over three years to 2010-11, predicated on Pakistani commitments, including the observation of human rights. In light of recent events, our future programme is under review. Our first priority remains the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people in Pakistan.

Sudan: Foreign Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects of UK aid funding on the situation in Darfur. [163373]

Mr. Thomas: The UK is the second largest bilateral humanitarian donor to Sudan and has spent over £145 million supporting emergency relief operations in Darfur since April 2004. This aid is having a clear and positive effect. It has contributed to food assistance for an estimated five million people, non-food items for 300,000 households and access to clean water for 2.3 million people. Our £40 million contribution in 2007 to the pioneering Common Humanitarian Fund has provided 340,000 households with non-food items, assisted approximately 75,000 organised returnees, 105,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees and assisted future organised returns for over 500,000 IDPs. In Southern Sudan it has enabled nine million children to be vaccinated against Polio, one million against measles and resulted in a 19 per cent. drop in food aid requirements. The UK also has a £12 million p.a. bilateral programme with non-governmental organisations in Darfur which provides water, sanitation and health care to over four million people, of which 2.2 million are internally displaced in camps.

The UK has pledged £5 million to the Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund launched by the UN and international partners to promote peace and reconciliation at the community level and contributed £73 million to the African Union Mission in Sudan to help support the protection of civilians in Darfur. The UK stands ready to implement a major recovery programme, pending the cessation of hostilities.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing Benefit

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people are in receipt of housing benefit in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* the UK. [163354]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply.

The most recent available information is in the following table.

Households in Ribble Valley borough council, Lancashire, and Great Britain as at February 2007

	Number
Ribble Valley	1,480
Lancashire	66,090
Great Britain	4,039,750

Notes:
1. The data refer to households, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any Extended Payment cases.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count, taken in February 2007.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on housing benefit in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* the UK in each of the last 10 years. [165355]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply.

The available information is in the following table.

Housing benefit expenditure figures for Ribble Valley borough council, Lancashire and Great Britain in each year, in nominal terms

£ million

	Ribble Valley borough council	Lancashire	Great Britain
1997-98	3.2	163.7	11,176.4
1998-99	3.2	163.6	11,064.8
1999-2000	3.3	169.1	11,063.3
2000-01	3.3	169.6	11,162.3
2001-02	3.4	175.2	11,588.3
2002-03	3.9	189.1	12,636.2
2003-04	3.5	183.7	12,340.9
2004-05	3.9	187.6	13,156.1
2005-06	4.4	195.2	13,982.2
2006-07	4.4	195.2	14,859.7

Notes:
1. Information sourced from local authority claims for housing revenue account subsidy and housing benefit and council tax benefit subsidy.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest £100,000.
3. Figures prior to 2006-07 are audited, but may change in future if local authorities' audited accounts are amended after a decision or appeal. Figures for recent years are more likely to be amended than older data.
4. 2006-07 figures are initial final (pre-audited) and are subject to change.
5. From 1999-2000 onwards, housing and council tax benefit expenditure on asylum seekers was funded by the National Asylum Support Service, and is therefore excluded from the figures presented at Great Britain. However, local authority level information includes all expenditure on these benefits relating to asylum seekers, as it is not possible to isolate at this level that part which applies to asylum seekers.
6. Figures relate to what local authorities spend on claimants, and include discretionary expenditure (mainly disregards of War Pensions), and overpayments except where benefit has been granted in advance (where the benefit is paid in the form of a rebate).

Source:
DWP Benefit expenditure tables.
DWP housing benefit and council tax benefit expenditure tables are available online at:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/HBmisCTB_expenditure.asp

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

English Collective of Prostitutes

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women whether the Government had meetings with the *(a)* English Collective of Prostitutes and *(b)* Safety First Coalition in the last 12 months; and whether such meetings are planned. [165964]

Barbara Follett: There have been no meetings with the English Collective of Prostitutes or the Safety First Coalition in the last twelve months. Currently no meetings are planned.

Equal Pay

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women what assessment she has made of the factors causing the gender pay gap. [165768]

Barbara Follett: The gender pay gap is complex and arises from many factors such as differences in men and women's labour market experience (e.g. as a result of women taking time out to look after children), skills and education, occupational segregation, lack of quality part-time work (especially for women returning from maternity leave), historical culture, gender stereotyping and discrimination.

In 2004, the Prime Minister set up the Women and Work Commission to conduct an independent review to examine the causes of the gender pay gap. The Commission looked at the range of published research and other evidence on this issue, and produced a report in February 2006 containing 40 recommendations to tackle the gender pay gap. The Government accepted, or partially accepted, all but one of the recommendations aimed at Government and we are making good progress in implementing them.

Closing the pay gap between men and women is a key priority for the Government, as I made clear in my statement to Parliament on Priorities for the Ministers for Women. Closing the pay gap is now one of the indicators in the new Equalities Public Service Agreement.

Government Equalities Office

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women what estimate she has made of the proportion of the work of the Government Equalities Office on gender discrimination which concerns discrimination against men. [165769]

Barbara Follett: Only a small proportion of the work of the Government Equalities Office focuses specifically on discrimination against men, because in tackling those inequalities that persist in society, women are still affected more than men as can be seen in areas such as the pay gap and levels of domestic and sexual violence, which I have highlighted as priority areas for action.

However the office's work on sex discrimination legislation, applies equally to women and men, and the introduction of the Gender Equality Duty earlier this year will ensure that all public authorities take account of the different needs of women and men in developing

policy and in service provision. Work within the office towards a Single Equalities Act, aims to create a clearer and more streamlined discrimination legislative framework which produces better outcomes for those who currently experience disadvantage, irrespective of sex.

It is therefore not possible to make a specific percentage estimate of time spent addressing discrimination against men. But understanding more about the inequalities and discrimination facing men is important to achieving gender equality and for that reason, Ministers for Women are hosting a round table in December on this subject, to raise awareness of, and gain a better understanding of the specific challenges and barriers facing men. The event will inform thinking on ways that both sexes, working together, can improve the balance of work and family life to, and to better understand attitudes towards sexual exploitation and violence.

Prostitution: Foreign Workers

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women what estimate she has made of the proportion of non-British sex workers who have been *(a)* trafficked and *(b)* subject to coercion. [165770][2]

Barbara Follett: Ten years ago 85 per cent. of women in brothels were UK citizens now 85 per cent. are from outside the UK. Estimates suggest that at any one time in 2003 there were approximately 4,000 victims of trafficking for prostitution in the UK.

No research has been undertaken which would provide evidence or provide a basis for estimates on the proportion of non-British sex workers who have been *(a)* trafficked and *(b)* subject to coercion.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Consultants: Contracts

Mr. Walker: To ask the Leader of the House what contracts her Office has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts are for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163810]

Helen Goodman: None.

Departmental Flexible Working

Andrew Selous: To ask the Leader of the House how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours in her Office. [164315]

Helen Goodman: No member of staff has yet requested to work flexible hours.

This office endeavours to provide all staff with an effective work life balance.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Walker: To ask the Leader of the House what the full-time equivalent headcount in her Office is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for her office is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if she will make a statement. [163981]

Ms Harman: Nineteen full-time employees. This includes three members of staff who support me in my responsibilities as Minister for Women and Equalities; and two special advisers. We have not made any work force forward projections, but are not anticipating any changes to staffing numbers.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Maude: To ask the Leader of the House (1) what the level of the communications allowance for hon. Members is in 2007-08; and what it will be in 2008-09; [164080]

(2) whether the communications allowance may be spent on payments to political parties for the provision of communications services on *(a)* commercial and *(b)* non-commercial terms; [164085]

(3) what her definition is of campaigning with regard to the prohibition of the use of communications allowance for campaigning; [164175]

(4) what the maximum financial amount in cash terms is in 2007-08 that can be transferred to communications allowance from *(a)* incidental expenses provision and *(b)* staffing allowance; [164307]

(5) what guidance has been published on using party political descriptions in literature financed under the communications allowance. [164314]

Helen Goodman: The communications allowance was introduced on 1 April 2007. It was set by the House at a level of £10,000 p.a. It will increase in April each year by the annual rise in the retail price index as at 31 December of the preceding year.

The purpose of the allowance is to meet the cost of proactive communications by Members to their constituents. The rules and guidance in the Green Book, as approved by the Members Estimate Committee are set out and published in July 2007.

Members must avoid any arrangement which may give rise to an accusation that public money is being diverted for the benefit of a political organisation. Campaigning, which is prohibited by the rules, is understood to be the use of parliamentary funds to seek to gain a party or sectional electoral advantage.

The allowance rules in the Green Book permit Members the flexibility to transfer money between allowances so that they can use the available funds to meet the needs of their constituents more efficiently. Members may transfer up to 10 per cent. from their staffing allowance and 100 per cent. from their incidental expenses provision to the communications allowance.

The Members Estimate Committee undertook to consider and where necessary review the rules and guidance in the light of experience.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mike Penning: To ask the Leader of the House who the special advisers in her Office are; what expertise each has; and what the cost of employing them was in the latest year for which figures are available. [163418]

2. *[Official Report, 18 December 2007, Vol. 469, c. 2MC.]*

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House what the office costs for her Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164923]

Helen Goodman: The annual list of special advisers will be published shortly. I will write to the hon. Members once the information is publicly available.

There are two full-time civil servants who work in support of the special advisers in both my roles as Deputy Leader of the House and Minister for Women and Equality.

Parliamentary Questions

John Hemming: To ask the Leader of the House if she will bring forward proposals to prevent questions from falling as a result of the Prorogation. [164342]

Helen Goodman: Prorogation signifies the formal end of a Session and brings to an end almost all parliamentary business. There are no plans to change the procedure for PQ answers at Prorogation which were reviewed and improved as recently as 2004. In the new Session Members are free, if they so wish, to re-table questions which have fallen at Prorogation.

As the hon. Member is aware, the Procedure Committee is currently conducting an inquiry into written parliamentary questions which will consider the procedures, scope and rules governing the answering of parliamentary questions.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Foreign Workers

14. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the change in the proportion of foreign workers in the UK labour force since 1997. [165004]

15. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the change in the proportion of foreign workers in the UK labour force since 1997; and what assessment he has made of the effects of that trend. [165006]

21. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the change in the proportion of foreign workers in the UK labour force since 1997. [165012]

22. **Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the change in the proportion of foreign workers in the UK labour force since 1997 and what assessment he has made of the effects of that trend. [165013]

Caroline Flint: According to the latest estimates available about 7-8 per cent. of those in employment are foreign nationals. In 1997 the figure was 3-4 per cent.

The UK labour market remains very buoyant. As reported last week, employment is at record levels, employment rates for UK nationals are higher than they were in 1997 and over 660,000 vacancies exist in the economy.

Debt Advice and Assistance

16. **Christine Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to provide advice and assistance to benefit claimants on matters relating to debt. [165007]

Mr. Plaskitt: The now let's talk money campaign is raising awareness among the financially excluded (including benefit claimants) of the availability of free face-to-face financial/debt advice, the availability of more affordable credit and the value of opening a bank account.

Jobcentre Plus is fully joined up with the now let's talk money campaign and advisers are sign-posting customers to free face-to-face money advice (offered by Citizens Advice and other money advice organisations) and affordable credit (offered by credit unions and community development finance institutions) where this is appropriate.

Child Poverty

17. **Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the methodology his Department uses for estimating levels of child poverty. [165008]

Caroline Flint: The central measure of the three indicators we use is relative low income. This counts those children living in households below 60 per cent. of contemporary median equivalised household income, before housing costs. Equivalisation takes account of the fact that larger families need more money to maintain the same standard of living as smaller ones. Our data come from the Family Resources Survey.

Online Benefits Applications: Operating Systems

18. **Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to enable online benefits applications to be made using personal computers with any operating system. [165009]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Over 90 per cent. of citizens can access online benefits applications through a pilot system developed using Windows technology. A review of the pilot is due to complete by the end of the year, which will identify lessons learnt and determine how the system may be made available to more citizens.

Winter Fuel Allowance

19. **Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the level of the winter fuel allowance; and if he will make a statement. [165010]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since its introduction the value of the winter fuel payment has increased substantially. When it was introduced—for the winter of 1997-98—every household with someone over state pension age who was receiving certain qualifying benefits got a payment of £20 to help with their winter fuel costs. Now, households including someone age 60 to 79 are entitled to a payment of £200, with households including someone aged 80 or over entitled to £300. This represents a significant contribution to the costs of winter fuel for older people, and should re-assure them that they can afford to keep warm through the winter months.

Pay: Gender Inequalities

20. **Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government are taking on gender inequalities in pay. [165011]

Barbara Follett: The Government are implementing the Women and Work Commission recommendations for narrowing the gender pay gap. To galvanise this, closing the pay gap is now one of the indicators in the new Equalities Public Service Agreement. And we are considering suggestions made by people responding to our consultation on the Equality Bill about how the law on equal pay could be strengthened.

Job Opportunities: Benefit Recipients

23. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to encourage employers to provide job opportunities for people on benefits. [165014]

Caroline Flint: Jobcentre plus already works with 400,000 employers every year and takes over 10,000 new vacancies every working day.

Local employment partnerships build on this success by providing employers with a premium service in return for a stronger than normal commitment to taking on jobless people.

Child Support Agency

24. **Mr. Heppell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what improvements in performance have been made as a result of the Child Support Agency's operational improvement plan. [165015]

Mr. Plaskitt: The agency is half way through its three year operational improvement plan and is showing significant improvements in client service. Uncleared applications have been more than halved and stand at their lowest point for at least eight years.

The agency is now assessing cases faster than ever; more than half of all new applications are now routinely cleared in less than six weeks.

While these improvements are important and welcome, the real test is the difference made for children by collecting or arranging maintenance. Having established a platform of improved service, the focus for the remaining 18 months is enforcement.

State Pension: Women

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government is taking to ensure that more women are entitled to a full state pension. [165002]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As a result of the Pensions Act 2007 the proportion of women reaching state pension age entitled to a full basic state pension is expected to rise to around three quarters in 2010 and to over 90 per cent. in 2025. Almost half a million extra women over state pension age are expected to be entitled to a full basic state pension in 2025 as a result of reform.

Children: Maintenance

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unrecovered child maintenance payments are outstanding in each constituency in Scotland; and how much in each case is not expected to be recovered. [163464]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer on 12 November 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 19 November 2007:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unrecovered child maintenance payments are outstanding in each constituency in Scotland; and how much in each case is not expected to be recovered.

The Agency does not hold information in the format requested. Such information as is available is shown in the attached table which sets out the total amount of debt owed by non-resident parents in cases processed on the new system (CS2). The Agency is not able to estimate debt on old rules cases processed on the old system (CSCS) at parliamentary constituency level. Although the Agency does estimate the collectability of debt, this estimate is based on past performance and on an Agency wide sample exercise which does not take account of geographic or regional variation. Therefore the Agency is not able to provide a geographic analysis of the collectability of debt.

This debt is owed by non-resident parents as a result of their failure to meet their responsibilities to their children. Debt recovery is very much dependent on the willingness of non-resident parents to co-operate with the Agency. Some non-resident parents do their utmost to avoid their responsibilities—for example by moving house or changing jobs whenever the Agency tries to collect maintenance.

The Agency is working hard to collect more maintenance arrears and benefit more children. Measures introduced under the Agency's Operational Improvement Plan, such as enabling credit and debit card payments and employing the services of external debt collection agencies are helping the Agency in this aim.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Total debt on cases processed by CS2 by parliamentary constituencies in Scotland: September 2007

Parliamentary constituency	*Total debt (£)*
Aberdeen, North	2,859,000
Aberdeen, South	1,655,000
Airdrie and Shotts	2,121,000
Angus	2,514,000

Total debt on cases processed by CS2 by parliamentary constituencies in Scotland: September 2007

Parliamentary constituency	*Total debt (£)*
Argyll and Bute	1,650,000
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock	2,418,000
Banff and Buchan	3,029,000
Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	1,958,000
Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross	1,291,000
Central Ayrshire	2,158,000
Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill	2,282,000
Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch, East	1,831,000
Dumfries and Galloway	2,736,000
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale	1,907,000
Dundee, East	2,333,000
Dundee, West	2,445,000
Dunfermline and West Fife	2,412,000
East Dunbartonshire	439,000
East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow	1,602,000
East Lothian	2,110,000
East Renfrewshire	1,090,000
Edinburgh, East	1,607,000
Edinburgh, North and Leith	1,440,000
Edinburgh, South	865,000
Edinburgh, South West	1,689,000
Edinburgh, West	1,219,000
Falkirk	2,988,000
Glasgow, Central	1,694,000
Glasgow, East	2,327,000
Glasgow, North	1,048,000
Glasgow, North East	2,225,000
Glasgow, North West	1,772,000
Glasgow, South	1,308,000
Glasgow, South West	1,995,000
Glenrothes	3,157,000
Gordon	1,461,000
Inverclyde	2,244,000
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey	2,213,000
Kilmarnock and Loudoun	2,842,000
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	2,737,000
Lanark and Hamilton, East	1,942,000
Linlithgow and East Falkirk	2,701,000
Livingston	3,421,000
Midlothian	2,004,000
Moray	2,071,000
Motherwell and Wishaw	2,357,000
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	355,000
North Ayrshire and Arran	2,310,000
North East Fife	1,422,000
Ochil and South Perthshire	2,004,000
Orkney and Shetland	915,000
Paisley and Renfrewshire, North	1,488,000
Paisley and Renfrewshire, South	1,776,000
Perth and North Perthshire	2,179,000
Ross, Skye and Lochaber	1,114,000
Rutherglen and Hamilton, West	2,392,000
Stirling	1,554,000
West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	1,228,000
West Dunbartonshire	2,295,000

Notes:
1. Includes total debt on both new and old rules cases processed on CS2 system only.
2. Values rounded to the nearest £1,000.
3. Table relates to value of total debt on cases where non resident parent lives in Scotland.
4. Cases have been allocated to a parliamentary constituency through matching the postcode of the non-resident parent against the Office for National Statistics postcode directory. There will be a small number of cases where the postcode is unknown or not recorded and therefore can not be allocated to a parliamentary constituency.

Credit Unions

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to support the work of credit unions. [165005]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave earlier to my hon. Friend the Member for North Ayrshire and Arran (Ms Clark).

Departmental Orders and Regulations

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many statutory instruments were laid before Parliament by his Department between 2 November 2005 and 1 July 2007. [164044]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 749W, to the hon. Member for Rutland and Melton (Alan Duncan).

Incapacity Benefit: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration he has given to the recommendations of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's report on those with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis when claiming incapacity benefit; and if he will make a statement. [165787]

Mrs. McGuire: The report of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is about the way chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis is treated within the NHS.

Entitlement to incapacity benefit does not depend on a person's diagnosis or on the treatment they are receiving. It depends on the effect their condition has on their ability to work. This is a fairer way than using criteria based on specific conditions or diagnoses, because the same condition can have very different disabling effects in different people.

The Department recognises chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis as a real and potentially very disabling condition. Each person claiming benefit is assessed on the basis of the way the condition affects them as an individual. The personal capability assessment for deciding entitlement to incapacity benefit looks at a

range of activities relevant to work, and assesses whether or not a person can carry them out reliably and safely, over a period of time.

As part of our welfare reform proposals we have reviewed and revised the personal capability assessment to ensure it is a robust and accurate assessment of limited capability for work. The revised assessment will be used to assess people claiming the new employment and support allowance, which will replace incapacity benefit for new customers.

Local Housing Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been allocated for the provision of information and advice for recipients of housing benefit under local housing allowance on its introduction in 2008. [163965]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department for Work and Pensions and local authorities have together been provided with £62 million (£59 million of this to local authorities) to support the implementation of the local housing allowance. Part of this funding will deliver a comprehensive communications strategy which will provide information and advice to customers who may be eligible for the local housing allowance.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received housing benefit under local housing allowance in the nine Pathfinder areas. [163966]

Mr. Plaskitt: As at August 2007, the total number of households receiving local housing allowance across the nine Pathfinder areas was around 54,000.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 11 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 741W, on local housing allowance, how much of the funding provided to support the implementation of the local housing allowance is allocated for the provision of advice. [163967]

Mr. Plaskitt: Local authorities have been provided with £59 million to support the implementation of the local housing allowance, and the freedom to allocate that funding according to local needs. The Department for Work and Pensions has not prescribed to local authorities how this funding is to be allocated.

Pension Credit

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many men under the age of 65 years who are claiming pension credit have voluntarily switched from claiming jobseeker's allowance after attaining the age of 60 years. [162628]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available in the form requested.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council of England: Grants

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been granted by the Arts Council for England to *(a)* opera, *(b)* ballet and *(c)* brass bands in the last five years. [164547]

Margaret Hodge: The Arts Council has provided opera with the following grant in aid:

	£
2002-03	27,452,000
2003-04	28,990,000
2004-05	31,414,000
2005-06	32,800,000
2006-07	35,258,000

The Royal Opera House has received grant in aid for both ballet and opera:

	£
2002-03	21,115
2003-04	21,748
2004-05	23,111
2005-06	24,866
2006-07	25,550

The Arts Council has provided ballet with the following grant in aid:

	£
2002-03	12,794,000
2003-04	13,417,000
2004-05	13,883,000
2005-06	14,486,000
2006-07	15,722,000

The Arts Council has provided brass bands with the following grant in aid:

	£
2002-03	27,000
2003-04	28,000
2004-05	31,000
2005-06	32,000
2006-07	22,000

Arts: Apprentices

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many individuals were given creative apprenticeships in each of the last three years. [164474]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* Creative and Cultural Skills (CCS) is the Sector Skills Council for advertising, craft, cultural heritage, design, music and the literary, visual and performing arts. It has developed the first ever industry-backed, Government approved apprenticeships for the sector.

53 placements have already been made as a pilot under this scheme since January 2007 and this is likely to rise to 60 from January next year. This scheme for Creative Apprenticeships will be rolled out nationally from September 2008.

British Library: Finance

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding was allocated by his Department to the British Library in each of the last six years; and what plans he has for future funding of the Library. [165139]

Margaret Hodge: The following funding has been allocated to the British Library in the period 2002-08:

£000

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Resource	83,521	82,021	83,021	88,496	90,517	92,339
Capital	1,572	4,072	7,072	12,072	12,072	12,072
Total	85,093	86,093	90,093	100,568	102,589	104,411

As part of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) the British Library has received an inflation-proof resource settlement for 2008-11 and a sustained level of capital funding.

£000

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Resource	94,832	97,393	100,022
Capital	12,072	12,072	12,072
Total	106,904	109,465	112,094

Broadcasting: Licensing

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* name, *(b)* licence area and *(c)* character of service is of each of the cable and satellite television channel stations licensed for broadcast in the UK. [164339]

James Purnell: The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom), as independent regulator for the communications sector. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Citizens' Juries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many citizens' juries were arranged for his Department for each year between 1997 and June 2007; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each. [163598]

Margaret Hodge: My Department has not arranged any citizens' juries since June 1997. No records were kept prior to this date.

Community Club Development Fund: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department gave to the Community Club Development Fund in each of the last five years. [165804]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Community Club Development Programme funding of £100 million has been available through Sport England during the five years to March 2008, broken down as follows:

£ million

2003-04	20
2004-05	20
2005-06	20
2006-07	20
2007-08	20

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to ensure that English wine is served exclusively or at the request of guests at meals, parties and receptions hosted by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [164292]

Mr. Sutcliffe: English wine is available upon request by the organisers of parties or receptions at DCMS.

Departmental Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained (A) temporary and (B) permanent jobs in his Department in 2007. [165109]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, in the year to date (i) 236 people applied for jobs, (ii) 35 of those received interviews, (iii) (A) one gained a temporary appointment and (B) five were appointed permanently. The age related information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of people over 65 he estimates will qualify for assistance in switching over to digital television in *(a)* Eastbourne, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* England. [165333]

James Purnell: The information is not available in the form requested.

A household will qualify for assistance from the Digital Switchover Help Scheme if one person is aged 75 or over, is entitled to disability living allowance or attendance allowance (or equivalent benefits under the industrial injuries or war pensions scheme) or is registered blind or partially sighted.

Information on the number of households where the qualifying person is aged between 60 and 75 in Eastbourne, East Sussex and England is in the table.

Area	*Number of households*
Eastbourne	1,100
East Sussex	7,500
England	830,000

Notes:

1. Eligibility for help from the Digital Switchover Help Scheme will be by benefit unit rather than the whole household definition used by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG), the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Northern Ireland Office to forecast future household growth. The scheme definition of eligible households mirrors Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) definition of a benefit unit: a couple (which from December 2005 includes gay couples) and any dependent children. It excludes adults deemed to be non-dependents who, if eligible, will be able to claim assistance from the help scheme in their own right.
2. The estimates use data from the Department for Work and Pensions Client Group Analysis for November 2005 adjusted by changes in future household and benefits growth for the period from 2005 until the date switchover takes place in the relevant area.
3. The figures do not include households where the person qualifying for help under the scheme is registered blind or registered partially sighted who qualify on grounds of registration rather than on grounds of age or entitlement to disability benefits.
4. The figures for Eastbourne are for the Eastbourne parliamentary constituency.

Flags

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what reasons his Department decided to hold a consultation on altering its guidance on the flying of the Union flag from UK Government buildings. [164361]

Margaret Hodge: The Department carried out a consultation on altering the current guidance on flying the Union flag from UK Government buildings in line with a commitment in the Governance of Britain Green Paper.

Although, the relevant guidance only applies to Government buildings, the impact of the changes is likely to affect other public organisations, because many choose to follow the Government lead. The consultation seeks views on giving Government Departments more flexibility on when to fly the Union flag.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; who the chairman is of each; and to what salary, including bonuses and expenses, each chairman is entitled. [163608]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested can be found in the DCMS publication DCMS Public Bodies Directory 2007, copies of which are also available from the Library and online at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4BEEOODC-62FF-4F5C-8012-E3B82B915112/0/DCMSPublicBodies Directory20072.pdf

Press Complaints Commission

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to improve the independence of the Press Complaints Commission. [165359]

Margaret Hodge: The Government supports self-regulation of the press and believes that there is no case for Government intervention. Accordingly, the Press Complaints Commission already is a body which is independent of Government.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance his Department has given to the Press Complaints Commission on the definition of the public interest. [165361]

Margaret Hodge: We have offered no such guidance to the independent Press Complaints Commission (PCC). The definition the PCC use is published as part of the Editors' Code of Practice.

Press Complaints Commission: Standards

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the provisions of the Code of the Press Complaints Commission on harassment and privacy; and if he will seek a strengthening of the provisions of the Code in those respects. [165343]

Margaret Hodge: Given our commitment to self-regulation it is for the industry to take the appropriate decisions. Amendments to the Code are a matter for the independent Press Complaints Commission and the Committee dealing with the Editors' Code of Practice. However, both harassment and invasions of privacy are already forbidden by the Code, unless they can be justified in the public interest.

Press: Regulation

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will assess the adequacy of arrangement for regulation of the press. [165360]

Margaret Hodge: We maintain a watching brief on this issue and are generally satisfied that the Press Complaints Commission's Code of Practice is both adequate and appropriate for its purpose.

Sports: School Leavers

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of young people who cease participating in sport after leaving school. [164313]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows the percentage of people in each age category, who have participated in at least one active sport in the last four weeks. Active sport is defined as all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and well-being, forming social relationships, or obtaining results in competition at all levels.

Age (years)	Percentage participating
11-15 (overall)	95
11-15 (outside school)	88.7
16	82.5
17-18	80.0
19 plus	52.3

To tackle the drop off in activity levels we have a public service agreement, to increase sports participation in adults aged 16 plus among priority groups by 3 per cent., by 2008. The priority groups include women, people with a physical or mental disability, people from black or minority ethnic groups, and people in socio-economic groups C2, D or E.

The recently announced additional funding of £100 million for school sports will help target the 16-19 age group (including those in school and further education), enabling them to access three hours of sporting opportunities.

Tickets

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the impact of ticket pricing policy and arrangements in the event entertainment industry on access to cultural events; and if he will make a statement. [163091]

Margaret Hodge: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) published a report on ticket agents in the UK in 2008. OFT examined consumer concerns around pricing and found the main issue for consumers was information about prices. The OFT has been in discussion with the Committee on Advertising Practices on reforms to its code, and is waiting to see the impact of future legislation and changes to the code, before considering whether further action is needed.

The DCMS survey, Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport, Annual Report 2005-06, looked at attendance and participation in cultural and sporting activities. Only 6 per cent. of those questioned cited cost as the main barrier to visiting an arts event. DCMS plans to carry out a more detailed review of this issue as part of its next report on the Taking Part survey.

Video Games

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has plans to include upgrades for video games in a review of the classification of video games. [164067]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* Under the current classification system, a producer's upgrade or addition to a video game means that it is a different product from a previously classified game. It therefore has to be classified separately.

Part of the review being led by Tanya Byron is to assess the effectiveness and adequacy of existing measures to help prevent children from being exposed to harmful or inappropriate material in video games and on the internet, and to make recommendations for improvements or additional action. The whole classification system for video games is being covered by this review.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what factors are taken into account before a video game is released for sale. [164210]

Margaret Hodge: Producers first test their game using the voluntary Pan European Games Information classification system. This reveals whether it must be submitted to the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC), under the terms of the Video Recordings Act.

It must go to the BBFC if it contains live action (rather than entirely computer generated images) or material that is grossly violent or sexual.

If submitted to the BBFC, it is considered and classified against the same publicly available guidelines (these can be found at www.bbfc.co.uk <http://www.bbfc.co.uk>) used for cinema films or DVDs.

Video Games: Violence

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations his Department received about the link between violent video games and the actions of their users in each of the last five years. [164209]

Margaret Hodge: Records of correspondence are only available for the last three years. Since December 2004, we have received no representations from groups concerned about a link between video games featuring violence and violent behaviour in real life. However, we have received correspondence from some individuals—often through their constituency Member of Parliament—who are concerned about a possible link.

In December 2004, we received two letters. In 2005, we received 12 letters. In 2006, we received 10 letters. And so far in 2007, we have received 16 letters, eight of which related to the announcement of the review led by Dr. Tanya Byron. This review is considering the effectiveness and adequacy of existing measures to help prevent children from being exposed to harmful or inappropriate material in video games and on the internet, and to make recommendations for improvements or additional action.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has made an assessment of the effectiveness of mechanisms to co-ordinate international reconstruction and development work in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [164099]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

The Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) is the overarching body for monitoring political and development progress in Afghanistan. It was established to monitor the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact and provide a forum to provide

direction on major policy issues or blockages (e.g. problems with coordination or financing). It meets four times a year and is attended by heads of mission and chaired by the UN Special representative and the Afghan President's senior economic adviser (Professor Nadiri). The latest, sixth JCMB met on 3 October and focused on regional economic cooperation. In addition, various groups meet to co-ordinate international reconstruction and development work in Afghanistan:

Eight consultative groups (sector level) and 22 working groups (line ministry level); all comprising Afghan Government and international community representatives who co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the Compact, contribute to budget formulation and monitor aid effectiveness within their sector.

The External Advisory Group meets every month and is a forum for donors to discuss progress on the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS). Chaired by DFID since August 2006, it is a tool for pushing the government on ANDS issues and preserving donor buy-in.

The Policy Action Group was set up by General Richards and President Karzai as a short-term response to security difficulties in the South. It is chaired by Minister of Education Hanif Atmar and UNAMA. There are four pillars: Security, Information, Reconstruction and Development and International.

World Bank-led donor meetings are meetings of donors only, with no Government representation, to discuss Afghanistan national development strategy issues. These meetings are usually focused on economic issues.

DFID has made no formal assessment of the effectiveness of these mechanisms to co-ordinate international reconstruction and development. However, we do believe that they have been successful in moving forward progress against the benchmarks of the Afghanistan Compact. The UN in Afghanistan has the potential to play a stronger role in donor co-ordination. DFID supports this.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome was of UN Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari's recent meeting with National League for Democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi; what progress has been made towards securing her release; and if he will make a statement. [164305]

Meg Munn: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said in his statement on 14 November:

"We welcome the report of Ambassador Gambari to the UN Security Council...The signs of progress are welcome but...the Burmese regime has taken small steps that now need to be followed by larger steps."

The full text of the statement is available on the FCO website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391638&a=KArticle&aid=1194715131090.

The UN Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari met with Aung San Suu Kyi for one hour on 8 November. Following this meeting Aung San Suu Kyi was able to deliver a message to the international community, welcoming the efforts of the UN in Burma and calling for a 'meaningful and time bound dialogue' with the regime.

Aung San Suu Kyi and a Burmese government liaison officer, Aung Kyi, have held preliminary discussions on the possibility of future talks and she has been allowed to meet some of her National League of Democracy colleagues. To help facilitate a dialogue, we hope that the restrictions placed upon Aung San Suu Kyi will be lifted.

Bolivia: Overseas Residence

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what his estimate is of the number of British citizens who reside in the Santa Cruz province of Bolivia; [165956]

(2) which provinces in Bolivia have an honorary British Consul; [165957]

(3) on what date an honorary British Consul was appointed to the province of Santa Cruz in Bolivia. [165958]

Dr. Howells: Honorary Consuls are appointed in areas of a country where there is a community of registered British nationals, British interests and/or a large number of British nationals visiting. Their role, for which they do not receive a salary but are paid an honorarium, is to provide assistance on a range of issues, primarily consular matters.

There are currently 48 registered British nationals in the province of Santa Cruz in Bolivia; the largest number of registered British nationals in Bolivia outside of the province of La Paz. It is the only province in Bolivia with a British Honorary Consul. The first British Honorary Consul to the province of Santa Cruz was appointed in 1977. The present incumbent was appointed in May 2007 when his predecessor, who had been in the role since 1999, relinquished his duties on departure from the country.

British Nationality

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has a procedure for recording and collating incidents and complaints made by British citizens who have taken part in overseas trips organised by gap year companies. [165199]

Meg Munn: Our official complaints procedure is for complaints about consular services provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. We do not record or collate incidents and complaints from British citizens relating to gap year companies. We do not have a regulatory role in this industry, but we do have links to it. The Year Out Group is one of the many travel industry companies who are members of our Consular Stakeholder Panel. As part of our wider "Know Before You Go" campaign, which promotes safer travel to British citizens, we have produced a website specifically aimed at gap year travellers;

www.gogapyear.com.

Burma: Detainees

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the numbers of those detained by the Burmese government following recent protests *(a)* who have been released and *(b)* who remain in detention. [164306]

Meg Munn: Official Burmese figures indicate close to 3,000 arrests during and after the recent protests, with 91 individuals still in detention. We believe, however, that these numbers are underestimated. The number of arrests is likely to be around 3,500. We believe the number still detained to be near to 1,000, although without independent access to prisons, it is impossible to give a firm figure.

We remain in close touch with organisations and individuals who, over time, hope to build a clearer picture of the numbers involved. Given the regime's tight control and manipulation of information however, it may never be possible to establish verified and independent evidence.

Charter of Fundamental Rights (EU): Deportation

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made in the Council of Europe on revision by international instrument of Article 3 of the European Charter of Human Rights as it applies in deportation cases. [164448]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary set out when she wrote to the Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights on 3 August, the Government are not seeking to amend the text of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. No such representations have therefore been made.

China Task Force

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who chairs the China Task Force; on what dates it met in 2007; and what was discussed at each meeting. [164012]

Dr. Howells: The China Task Force is now chaired by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, having previously been chaired by my right hon. Friend the former Deputy Prime Minister the Member for Kingston upon Hull, East (Mr. Prescott). The last two meetings were on 22 February 2007 and 13 September 2007. On 22 February the Task Force discussed the role of the China Britain Business Council, Shanghai Expo 2010, possible UK-China co-operation in building sustainable cities and reviewed progress in UK-China relations as a whole. On 13 September the Task Force discussed preparations for the next UK-China summit and how the Task Force could best focus its future efforts in support of UK-China bilateral engagement.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the China Task Force has taken to further its stated goals in the areas of *(a)* science and technology, *(b)* trade and investment, *(c)* education and *(d)* sustainable environment/development. [164013]

Dr. Howells: Key achievements arising from China Task Force recommendations have included greater co-operation across five key trade areas (information and communications technology, water, financial services, energy, health); an increased number of exchanges between UK and Chinese universities following the introduction of a scholarships scheme; the introduction of annual UK-China Education summits; the signing of a Sustainable Development Dialogue between the UK and China; and the development of a UK-China Working Group on Climate Change. During 2007 the Task Force produced a paper on Sustainable Cities as a basis for further co-operation in this area, which was presented to the Chinese in April. The Task Force is currently playing an active role in advising Government on preparations for the next UK-China summit, which will focus on the themes of trade and investment; education and research; climate change and sustainable development; and international development.

China: Arms Trade

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the merits of lifting the ban on UK defence exports to China. [164051]

Meg Munn: UK defence exports to China are governed by the EU China arms embargo and the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports. The European Council in December 2003 agreed to launch a review of the embargo, which is still underway.

Cyprus: Hotels

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress is being made in the refurbishment of Ledra Palace Hotel, Nicosia; what the estimated cost is; who is paying for it; and if he will make a statement. [163116]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have been asked to reply.

Refurbishment of the Ledra Palace Hotel is currently under way. Work on the first floor of the building is complete, and refurbishment will start shortly on the second floor and the roof. The United Nations Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP) have said they are content with the work to date. The work is being carried out by the Republic of Cyprus in an arrangement with the United Nations; we do not have visibility of the associated costs, but there is no direct cost to the UK for this work.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Human Rights

Mr. Joyce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received on the trial of Congolese army soldiers and employees of the company Anvil Mining accused of complicity in the massacre of civilians in the town of Kilwa; what representations he has made to the Democratic Republic of Congo Government on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [163872]

Meg Munn: We have received reports from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Government, the UN, Anvil Mining and civil society on the tragic events which took place in Kilwa in 2004. We have remained in contact with non-governmental organisations and UN staff monitoring the subsequent trial.

In conjunction with our international partners, we expressed our concern to the Congolese Government after the events in Kilwa. We have urged the Congolese authorities to ensure a transparent and independent investigation and a fair trial for those accused of involvement in the killing of civilians, as part of our regular dialogue encouraging an end to impunity in DRC.

Mr. Joyce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to encourage the implementation of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [163879]

Meg Munn: In conjunction with EU partners, the UK is active in supporting the EU guidelines. We have condemned threats and attacks against human rights defenders, made representations to the Congolese Government, including at presidential level, and issued public statements where human rights defenders are at risk. The UK provides financial and visible public support to Congolese non-governmental organisations (NGO) and has contributed to an NGO-administered scheme which helps provide immediate protection for human rights defenders at risk.

On 31 July the Presidency of the EU issued a declaration calling on the Congolese authorities to fulfil their obligations on human rights. It urged justice for the murderers of the human rights defenders Pascal Kabungulu and Serge Maheshe, and for the trial concerning Mr. Kabungulu's murder to resume.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Trade

Mr. Joyce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the work of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Government's commission reviewing natural resource contracts in that country. [163873]

Meg Munn: Reviewing contracts on the exploitation of natural resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was necessary to ensure that agreements, signed under previous administrations, allow the Congolese state to receive appropriate revenue from the resources on its territory. We supported the creation of the commission, and have urged the DRC Government to allow it to work independently, and give its recommendations thorough consideration.

There have been some allegations from civil society that the commission's work has not been sufficiently transparent. We have encouraged the commission and the government to be as transparent as possible and await the commission's final report with interest.

Departmental Flexible Working

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours (i) in his Department and (ii) the executive agencies for which his Department is responsible. [164320]

Meg Munn: All Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff are entitled to apply to work flexibly. The Department is committed to promoting flexible working both at home and overseas. The FCO board of management has recently appointed one of its members as its first champion for flexible working. A growing number of staff at all levels, including senior managers, are working flexibly, whether part-time, job-sharing, working compressed hours or working from home. We are introducing new technology to enable staff to work remotely; and we have established a flexible working network to offer support and guidance to staff working flexibly and their managers. The FCO is a member of the Working Families organisation.

The Department does not hold central records of flexible working arrangements. These are negotiated separately with individual line managers. At 1 October 2006 according to the annual civil service employment survey, we had 202 staff working part-time (including staff in FCO Services and Wilton Park), the FCO's Executive agencies.

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civil servants in his Department *(a)* transferred to other Government Departments and *(b)* left the civil service in each of the last five years. [162738]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the reply my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle) gave to her on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 203-207W.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest; and if he will make a statement. [164162]

Meg Munn: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers". Copies of the "Model Contract" are available in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what opinion polls his Department has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164950]

Meg Munn: Information on public opinion polls conducted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) including at its overseas posts is not held centrally. To collate this information would incur disproportionate cost. No staff opinion poll involving an external organisation has been conducted since 27 June 2007. The FCO occasionally surveys a small proportion of its staff about internal issues. These are conducted through in-house methods. The next all-staff survey involving an external consultant will take place in late November/December. An Investors in People health check survey will also be conducted later in November.

Dudley Ankerson

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Mr. Dudley Ankerson is employed within his Department. [165959]

Dr. Howells: It is not our policy to release the names or personal details of Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff except to confirm details already published in official documents.

Entry Clearances

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people, including their dependants, from outside the EEA were given permission to *(a)* enter and *(b)* stay on in the UK in a visa category which could lead to them being granted the right to settle in each of the last five years; and how many of these permissions were in work-related categories. [163790]

Dr. Howells: Although the information is not available in the format requested, the relevant statistics on immigration control are published in the 'Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom, 2006' Command Paper. Copies are available in the Library of the House and on the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

The following sections provide information on the reason for entry/stay in the UK for non-European Economic Area nationals and their dependents.

Section 2 Passengers given leave to enter;

Section 4 Decisions on applications for leave to remain; and

Section 5 Grants of settlement.

EU Reform: Treaties

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the method of approval of the European Reform Treaty referred to in the Gracious Speech will be done by way of a specific clause being included on the face of the Bill that gives effect in UK law to the provisions of the Treaty. [162403]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* As with previous amending Treaties, such as the Maastricht, Amsterdam and Nice Treaties, the Government will publish a Bill seeking Parliament's approval for the Reform Treaty to be given effect in UK law. If Parliament passes this Bill, that approval will enable the Government to ratify the Reform Treaty.

European Parliament: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has received on the location of the new offices in London for the European Parliament and European Commission. [164541]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There have been no discussions between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the European Parliament and European Commission regarding the location of new offices in London.

The European Commission and the European Parliament currently have separate office premises in London. The leases on both buildings are set to end within 12-18 months. Therefore, the Commission and Parliament are currently considering whether to move into a suitable building together.

The practice of sharing office premises exists in most member states.

European Union

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what items of EU branded material were purchased by his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [164539]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not purchased any EU branded material within the last 12 months.

European Union: Central Africa

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contact he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* Chad, *(b)* the Central African Republic and *(c)* Sudan on the EU mission to Chad and the Central African Republic; and if he will make a statement. [162517]

Meg Munn: Our high commissioner in Yaounde met with Chadian Foreign Minister, Ahmat Allami, during his visit to Chad in July 2007 and raised the planned deployment of a European Security Defence Policy (ESDP) force and a UN multi-dimensional mission to Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR). During subsequent visits by UK officials to Chad in September, October and November, the deployment of the ESDP force and UN mission have been further discussed with Chadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs representatives.

UK officials also met the President, Prime Minister and other CAR government representatives in September and October 2007 and took the opportunity to discuss their views on the proposed deployment.

The UK supports the deployment of the ESDP force to Chad and CAR to contribute to protecting refugees and displaced persons, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and contribute to protecting the UN operation. We continue to urge the Governments of Sudan, Chad and CAR to work to promote regional stability and ensure security along their common borders.

Hong Kong: Politics and Government

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the Green Paper on Constitutional Development produced by the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; what the Government's policy is on the proposals for China's future role in Hong Kong's constitutional affairs; and if he will make a statement. [162867]

David Miliband: The publication in July 2007 of the Green Paper on Constitutional Development, and the consultation exercise that followed, gave the people of Hong Kong an opportunity to express their views on

the territory's future political development. It is now up to the Special Administrative Region government to take a lead in producing proposals around which consensus can gather.

The People's Republic of China's role on constitutional reform is set out in the basic law and the subsequent interpretation of the basic law by the National People's Congress Standing Committee in April 2004. We expressed our concern at the time that the procedure set out in the interpretation appeared to erode the high degree of autonomy guaranteed to Hong Kong in the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration.

Our position on Hong Kong's constitutional development is clear. We believe the people of Hong Kong have demonstrated both their political maturity and their desire for reform. We are convinced that the best way to safeguard Hong Kong's stability and prosperity is for it to advance to a system of universal suffrage, as soon as possible.

Iran: Money Laundering

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the recent statement by the Financial Action Task Force that the Islamic Republic of Iran's lack of a comprehensive anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism regime represents a significant vulnerability within the international financial system; and what international action the UK will be proposing on the matter. [163894]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

The UK fully supports the work of the FATF on this matter and HM Treasury concurs with the FATF's assessment. The Treasury has therefore issued a notice to advise all UK businesses within the financial sector to be aware that there are significant deficiencies in Iran's AML/CFT regime. They should take into account this heightened risk and consider applying increased scrutiny and due diligence to transactions associated with Iran. The notice is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_108_07.cfm

The UK will continue to work through the FATF to bring pressure to bear on Iran to address the identified deficiencies. The UK is also calling for action in the UN and EU to address international concerns over Iran's nuclear programme, including against some Iranian financial institutions.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has *(a)* provided information to and *(b)* received representations from British banks on the statement by the Financial Action Task Force that Iran's lack of a comprehensive anti-money laundering and financing of terrorism regime represents a significant vulnerability within the international financial system. [163895]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

Following the Financial Action Task Force statement, HM Treasury issued an advisory notice to financial service firms on 12 October on the higher risk of money laundering and terrorist financing in transactions associated with Iran. The notice can be found on HM Treasury's public website at the following link:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2007/press_108_07.cfm

HM Treasury has received no representations from British banks on the statement but has discussed the matter informally during general private sector meetings on money laundering and terrorist financing.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the forthcoming report by the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy on the outcome of his discussions with Iran on its nuclear programme will be published; and if he will make a statement. [164097]

David Miliband: With respect to the Iran negotiations, we expect the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, to report on his contacts with Iran in the coming days. He is acting on behalf of the Foreign Ministers of the UK, France, Germany, Russia, China and the US—the E3+3. I will be discussing the handling of the report, including whether it should be published, with Dr. Solana and E3+3 colleagues.

Iraq Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many studies his Department has *(a)* started and *(b)* completed into the consequences of the Iraq war for his Department and lessons learnt; and if he will place copies in the Library. [163029]

Dr. Howells: No study of this type has been carried out by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Our strategy on Iraq is kept under constant review with changes made in close consultation with our coalition partners. Since May 2003, there have also been four inquiries on aspects of our operations in Iraq carried out by the Intelligence and Security Committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Lords Butler and Hutton, and many parliamentary debates.

Iraq: Resettlement

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what written guidance has been provided to British staff employed in the British embassies in *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Egypt, *(c)* Iran, *(d)* Syria and *(e)* Lebanon on the implementation of the Government's policy of assistance to locally-employed Iraqi staff; and if he will place copies in the Library. [163894]

David Miliband: We have drawn the attention of all regional posts to my written ministerial statements of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-28WS and 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 30-33WS and included guidance on implementing the scheme. Posts will refer all inquirers to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website, the dedicated phone lines that have been established, or the Iraq Locally Engaged Staff Scheme team in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

I will arrange for a copy of the guidance to be placed in the Library of the House.

Japan: Dolphins

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with Japan about the slaughter of dolphins by Japanese fishermen; and if he will make a statement. [164684]

Dr. Howells: There have been no recent discussions between my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and Japanese Ministers on this issue. However, at this year's meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in May 2007 the UK once again highlighted our concerns over Japan's small cetacean (dolphins and porpoises) hunts.

The UK recognises with deep concern that the protection and conservation of small cetaceans is very limited. Small cetaceans continue to be hunted in Japan and many other parts of the world, often at unsustainable levels. We believe that the IWC should take a strong stance in favour of the protection of small cetaceans and the UK will continue to ask Japan for assurances that legislation regulating these hunts will be improved and enforced.

Pakistan: Violence

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken to protect British citizens and officials in Pakistan from the recent violence. [165415]

Dr. Howells: We take a close concern in the safety of our citizens abroad and regularly discuss with the Pakistani authorities the protection of British nationals, including our officials in Pakistan. Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice for Pakistan is regularly updated. Our diplomatic missions in Pakistan are monitoring developments closely, keeping staff and the community advised and reviewing and updating their contingency plans. British residents and visitors are being encouraged to register with our missions. All this is prudent. To date, however, foreign nationals have been largely unaffected by the political situation.

Peacekeeping Operations: Private Sector

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what procedures the Government follow to ensure that private military security companies it employs comply with UK and EU law on the procurement of military equipment; and if he will make a statement. [162884]

David Miliband: Private military security companies contracted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) need to meet stringent and transparent procurement requirements in line with public procurement guidelines. Military equipment for use on FCO contracts can only be procured with the prior written agreement of the FCO and is conditional upon the end user providing an appropriate end-user certificate and obtaining an export licence.

Issue of the licence confirms that the exporter and end user(s) have satisfied all the requirements necessary to comply with UK and EU law.

Rwanda: Armed Conflict

Mr. Joyce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK has made to the government of Rwanda in relation to the conflict between Congolese armed forces and troops of the dissident general Laurent Nkunda. [163882]

Meg Munn: We have consistently urged the Rwandan government to make clear their disassociation from Laurent Nkunda and to tone down any rhetoric in support of him, in the interest of stabilising the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, when meeting President Kagame in October 2007, noted that Rwanda must continue to play a constructive role in creating lasting peace and security in the Great Lakes region. This message has been reinforced at official level many times over the last few months.

Sierra Leone: Presidents

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Government have had with the newly appointed President of Sierra Leone. [162367]

Meg Munn: Our high commissioner in Freetown and other senior members of the UK country team in Sierra Leone have met President Koroma on several occasions since his appointment to discuss the full range of bilateral relations, development assistance, and regional and international issues.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* logistical and *(b)* financial support the Government will contribute to the AU-UN hybrid mission in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [162869]

David Miliband: We are providing advice and support through a Brigadier who will deploy soon as Chief of Staff to the African Union (AU)/UN hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) Force Commander Agwai, and through UK military staff in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York. We continue to pay for troop rotations to the AU mission in Sudan, which will become part of the UNAMID force. Our financial support to the UNAMID mission will be through our assessed contributions to the UN.

Uganda: Commonwealth Meeting

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on UK objectives for the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Uganda. [164344]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary plans to submit a written ministerial statement to the House on UK objectives before the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting begins on 23 November.

Uganda: Human Rights

Mr. Joyce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Ugandan Government about the time taken to publish its investigation into reports that the Ugandan Army in Karamoja province has engaged in the extra-judicial killing of children and other civilians. [163880]

Meg Munn: We continue to encourage the Government of Uganda to publish the report. This issue was most recently raised by our high commission in Kampala, with other members of the Partners for Democracy and Governance group, on 24 October 2007.

Mr. Joyce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Ugandan government about ensuring that the disarmament process across the Karamoja region is carried out in a way which guarantees protection of civilians, especially children. [163881]

Meg Munn: We continue to raise our concerns with the Ugandan government about the forced disarmament programme in Karamoja, including the impact on children. We continue to press for a peaceful and voluntary disarmament process across the Karamoja region that involves all stakeholders, respects human rights and protects the civilian population. Our high commission in Kampala, with other members of the Partners for Democracy and Governance group, raised this most recently with the Ugandan government on 24 October 2007.

Zanu (PF): Sequestration of Assets

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assets held in the UK by *(a)* Robert Mugabe and *(b)* other Zanu-PF party officials have been (i) confiscated and (ii) frozen. [162267]

Meg Munn: The EU sanctions on Zimbabwe impose, inter alia, an asset freeze on individual members of the Government of Zimbabwe, including Robert Mugabe and all senior figures deemed to be responsible for the misgovernance of Zimbabwe or for human rights abuses.

All funds and economic resources belonging to persons listed under the sanctions are frozen and it is prohibited to make funds or economic resources available, directly or indirectly, to them. To date 43 accounts in the UK have been frozen, amounting to approximately £172,000. The EU sanctions do not provide for the confiscation of funds.

Zimbabwe: Elections

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage the next presidential and parliamentary elections in Zimbabwe to be free and fair. [162268]

Meg Munn: We believe that if the forthcoming elections in Zimbabwe are to be held in line with international standards, including those adopted by Southern African Development Community (SADC), there need to be significant changes in the way the elections are currently being organised. These include the removal of all military personnel from the election management process; all parties able to hold rallies, campaign freely and have free access to the media; voting rights for the substantial Zimbabwean diaspora; and a fairer and more transparent voter registration process. We also believe that international election observers should be given access to Zimbabwe at the earliest opportunity, since preparations are already under way. We will work with EU, SADC and other African and international partners to encourage these changes.

Zimbabwe: Sanctions

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what further diplomatic and economic sanctions have recently been considered by the Government to take against Zimbabwe. [162269]

Meg Munn: There are 131 members of the Zimbabwean ruling elite on the EU travel ban/asset freeze list. We will ensure these are maintained and will press for the inclusion of further individuals associated with human rights abuses. We have also taken a decision to exclude from the UK certain individuals not yet on the EU list, such as Central Bank Governor Gideon Gono, where their presence is considered not conducive to the public good. There are no economic sanctions against Zimbabwe; our policy is to pursue targeted measures against the elite that will not further worsen the plight of Zimbabwe's long-suffering population.

Zimbabwe: Travel Restrictions

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what movement restrictions are in place for senior members of the Zimbabwean government. [162266]

Meg Munn: The EU currently imposes a travel ban on 131 members of the Zimbabwean ruling elite who are deemed to be responsible for the misgovernance of Zimbabwe or for human rights abuses. This includes Robert Mugabe and all members of his Cabinet.

Zimbabwean officials on the EU list who attempt to travel to an EU country will be prevented from entering or transiting by the port authorities of that country. There are some exemptions to the travel ban list, for example, travel that is justified on the grounds of urgent humanitarian need or when a member state is bound by an obligation in international law as a host country providing an international intergovernmental organisation or conference, or when that conference is convened under the auspices of the UN.

In May of this year the UK refused entry to a senior member of the Zimbabwean Government under the EU travel ban. Decisions to exclude from the UK certain individuals not yet on the EU travel ban have included the Reserve Bank Governor, Gideon Gono, who was excluded on non-conducive grounds.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Career Development Loans

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people have taken out career development loans. [163646]

Bill Rammell: Career Development Loans (CDLs) are a successful programme administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to help individuals finance vocational learning of their choice. Loan capital is provided by three high street banks. Since the scheme started in 1988 there have been 249,544 loans with a total value of £964 million lent by the banks.

Delivery Partnerships

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on the *(a)* delivery partnership and *(b)* post-qualification admission process since 2005. [165532]

Bill Rammell: A sector-led Delivery Partnership was established in 2006 to implement reforms to the higher education applications process, resulting from the Government's consultation in 2005 'Improving the Higher Education Applications Process'. The Department has contributed a total of £125,000 towards the costs of the Delivery Partnership to date, with further funding being provided by Universities UK.

Dentistry: Finance

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was allocated for dentistry courses in each year since 1997. [165212]

Bill Rammell: The following table provides notional Higher Education Funding Council for England's (HEFCE) funding allocation figures for dentistry courses, based on numbers of full-time undergraduate clinical and pre-clinical dentistry students, from 1998-99 to 2006-07. A change in funding methodology means figures for 1997-98 would not be comparable.

	Notional grant (£)
1997-98	—
1998-99	25,280,200
1999-2000	25,668,000
2000-01	26,094,500
2001-02	27,777,000
2002-03	28,464,900
2003-04	31,648,700
2004-05	35,482,000
2005-06	39,073,600
2006-07	43,179,200

Notes:
Figures are for England only.
Figures are rounded.
Figures for 1998-99 to 2000-01 do not include premiums such as London weighting, specialist institution premiums etc.
Figures exclude postgraduate dentistry programmes.
Figures also exclude any public contributions towards dentistry training from non-HEFCE sources.

Source:
Figures are notional grant figures associated with the undergraduate dentistry students reported each year by institutions, using HEFCE's main teaching funding method, but they exclude other allocations such as funding for widening participation, which is not calculated by subject, and non-recurrent grants such as for capital.
The data source for the student numbers is HEFCE's annual Higher Education Students Early Statistics (HESES) survey.

Departmental Flexible Working

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours (i) in the Department and (ii) the executive agencies for which the Department is responsible. [164323]

Mr. Lammy: All staff in my Department can work flexibly. The information is not held centrally in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has no responsibility for the work arrangements of staff at executive agencies.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills to which periodicals his Department subscribes. [164500]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is as follows.

New Statesman
Voice Weekly
New Nation
Dod's Parliamentary Companion
Private Eye
The Economist
Vachers
Economic and Labour Market Review
Whitehall and Westminster World
Guardian Public Magazine
People Management and Public Finance
Talisman (Ofsted)
Times Higher Education Supplement
Times Education Supplement
New Scientist
Nature
New Statesman
Research Affairs
Research Africa
Research Europe
Research Fortnight
Science
Scientific American
The Economist
The Engineer
The Week
Daily Mail
Daily Telegraph
Financial Times
Guardian
Independent
The Times

Departmental Publicity

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on advertising and promotional campaigns since its establishment; and what the cost of

(a) television, *(b)* radio, *(c)* print media and *(d)* other elements of each campaign was; and if he will make a statement. [164171]

Mr. Lammy: The Department is currently undertaking an advertising and promotional campaign to ensure students and parents are aware of the financial support that will be available from 2008. The campaign was launched 5 November, 2007, and will be repeated spring 2008, to meet the information needs at the height of the college application process. The advertising and publicity budget allocated to this programme is £4.9 million of which £2.151,124 will be spent on advertising and promotion. The costs have been broken down as requested.

	Projected spend (£)
Television	1,145,813
Radio	562,184
Print	443,127

It is not possible to provide figures for 2008-09. Budgets will not be agreed until communications priorities and objectives for 2008-09 have been finalised and planning (informed by evaluation of 2007-08 activity) has been completed.

Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which buildings occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to people with disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [163951]

Mr. Lammy: All the buildings occupied by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills are fully accessible to people with disabilities.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of full-time first degree students at *(a)* Oxford, *(b)* Cambridge, *(c)* the London School of Economics and *(d)* Durham University were from (i) private schools in the UK, (ii) grammar schools in the UK, (iii) maintained schools in the UK that are non grammar and (iv) outside the UK in each year from 1990 to 2007. [163769]

Bill Rammell: The available information is shown in the table. These figures show the proportion of UK-domiciled young (under 21) entrants to full-time first degree courses, who are from state schools. This information is published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) within the annual Performance Indicators in Higher Education publication. This information is not available for other school types.

For each institution, the state school proportion is shown against a benchmark. This is a sector average which is adjusted for each institution to take into account the following factors: subject of study, qualifications on entry and age on entry. The benchmarks can be used to show how a university is performing compared to the sector as a whole, and also help to determine whether a meaningful comparison can be drawn between two or more universities.

Proportion of UK-domiciled young (under 21) entrants to full-time first degree courses, who are from state schools

	University of Cambridge[1]		*University of Durham*		*London School of Economics*		*University of Oxford*	
Academic year	*Percentage*	*Benchmark*	*Percentage*	*Benchmark*	*Percentage*	*Benchmark*	*Percentage*	*Benchmark*
1997/98	51.7	62.8	62.0	74.0	56.8	70.1	46.8	65.4
1998/99	53.2	65.8	63.1	76.8	61.8	73.9	49.8	68.2
1999/2000	52.2	65.4	61.7	76.2	57.7	72.5	57.7	72.5
2000/01	53.4	66.1	62.4	76.3	65.6	73.1	52.9	67.9
2001/02	54.5	67.9	66.7	77.5	64.0	73.6	54.5	68.6
2002/03	57.6	76.8	68.3	80.1	66.1	79.3	55.4	77.2
2003/04	56.9	75.3	63.8	78.9	64.3	78.2	53.8	75.2
2004/05	56.8	75.0	62.9	77.4	61.5	76.4	53.4	74.6
2005/06	—	—	61.8	78.9	59.4	76.0	53.7	75.4

[1] Figures are not available for the University of Cambridge for 2005/06.
Source:
"Performance indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA.

Figures for 2006/07 will become available in 2008. Figures are not available for earlier years than 1997/98.

Higher Education: Fees and Charges

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills for what reasons the review into the impact of tuition fees is commencing in 2009. [164362]

Bill Rammell: We have previously given an assurance to Parliament that before any changes could be considered to the real-terms maximum level of fees for full-time undergraduates, an independent commission will examine the evidence from the first three years of the new fees regime—which was introduced from the start of the 2006/07 academic year.

Higher Education: Manpower

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions he has had on the demographic profile of the higher education workforce; and if he will make a statement. [164462]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* The Department has regular discussions with the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) about the capacity and composition of the higher education work force. We have asked HEFCE to produce a regular report on higher education work force trends across the sector. The council published its Higher Education (HE) Workforce Framework in July 2006, which will be updated on a tri-annual basis in consultation with the HE sector. In parallel, HEFCE will publish an annual data report on trends in the HE workforce. This year's report will be published on its website before the end of the year. The Framework Report is available here

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/lgm/hr/

The age profile of staff in English HEIs is shown in the following table. It shows that the profile remains consistent from 2003-04 to 2005-06 and that the majority of staff are between the ages of 30 and 60.

Staff in English HEIs by age

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
Age group	*Number of staff*	*Percentage*	*Number of staff*	*Percentage*	*Number of staff*	*Percentage*
Below 30	42,806	16	44,728	16	46,887	16
30 to 39	71,483	26	73,472	26	74,981	26
40 to 49	71,912	26	74,784	26	77,175	26
50 to 59	68,979	25	70,847	25	71,914	25
60 and over	17,731	6	19,656	7	20,934	7
Total with known age	272,911	100	283,487	100	291,891	100
Age unknown	2,213		1,148		542	
Total	275,124		284,635		292,433	

Source:
HEFCE

HEFCE's analysis also produces subject specific information which is made available across the HE sector and this can be particularly helpful to higher education institutions in planning for the future.

Higher Education: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of young people from each ward in the Peterborough city council area undertook *(a)* degrees and *(b)* other advanced courses at university in each of the last five years. [165920]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the table. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

Figures are not available at ward level therefore the information in the table is for Peterborough local authority.

Young[1] entrants from Peterborough local authority by level of study: UK higher education institutions[2]: academic years 2001/02 to 2005/06

	Level of study	
Academic year	*First Degree*	*Other Undergraduate*
2001/02	595	60
2002/03	470	90
2003/04	535	80
2004/05	490	170
2005/06	595	120

[1] Young refers to undergraduates aged 20 and under.
[2] Excludes the Open University.

Note:
The figures are on a HESA Standard Registration-Population basis and are rounded to the nearest 5. They cover students on all modes of study.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

The Government's main measure of participation in higher education is the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR). This is the sum of the HE initial participation rates for individual ages between 17 and 30 inclusive. It covers English- domiciled first time entrants to HE courses, which are expected to last for at least six months, at UK higher education institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges, and who remain on their course for at least six months. The HEIPR is not available for smaller areas.

Institute for Animal Health: Finance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding from the public purse has been paid to the Institute for Animal Health at Pirbright in Surrey for the last 12 months. [164685]

Ian Pearson: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Leominster (Bill Wiggin) on 1 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 2346W.

Moulton College

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will visit Moulton College, Northamptonshire to meet staff and students and discuss future further education provision. [162107]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The Ministers and I are keen to visit as many colleges as possible to hear what staff and students have to say and have already been to 12 colleges since my Department was established in June 2007. My colleague, Lord Triesman, intends to visit Moulton college before the end of the year.

Older Workers

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans the Government have to encourage businesses to *(a)* retain and *(b)* develop and enhance the skills of older workers. [164129]

Mr. Lammy: The Department and the Learning and Skills Council are working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus to implement the proposals outlined in World Class Skills: Implementing the Leitch Review of Skills in England and the Green Paper: In Work, better off, both published in July this year.

Our reforms include supporting individuals, including older workers into sustainable employment and progression in work and in skills. We will give greater ownership and choice to individuals over their training through skills accounts backed up by a new universal adult careers service promoting personal advancement.

Similarly we are working with employers through Train to Gain and the Skills Pledge to meet skill needs and to ensure that all employees including older people have the basic skills, including literacy and numeracy and Level 2 skills (equivalent to five good GCSEs) needed to sustain and progress in employment. We are increasing funding for Train to Gain from £440 million in 2007/08 to over £900 million in 2010/11. We want to encourage all employers in England to make a Skills Pledge—that is, a specific promise that every eligible employee will be helped to gain basic skills, and a full Level 2 qualification.

Sector Skills Council: Licensing

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when the initial Sector Skills Councils' licences are due to expire; and if he will make a statement on plans for their renewal. [161885]

Mr. Lammy: The original prospectus for Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) issued in 2001 suggested that licences would be granted for five years. The 25 SSCs received their licences between 2002 and 2006. The licences are valid until either the licence is withdrawn by the Secretary of State or the Sector Skills Development Agency ceases to contract with the SSC.

The Government have now published "World Class Skills" as its response for England to the Leitch Review of Skills. This set out Government's intention to re-license SSCs, based on a new re-focused remit. Building on what was said in "World Class Skills", we are now working with the Devolved Administrations and other stakeholders to develop the arrangements which will apply to the issue of new licences. The new licences will be awarded by Ministers, in the light of advice the relevant Secretaries of State and Devolved Administrations receive from the UK Commission for Employment and Skills. The re-licensing process will set out clear performance standards and requirements that SSCs must meet.

Students: Females

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of students studying for equivalent or lower qualifications at university are women. [162711]

Bill Rammell: Approximately 57 per cent. of students currently studying for equivalent or lower qualifications at university are women, which is broadly the same as the overall percentage of students who are women.

Students: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when the results of the student income and expenditure survey are expected to be published. [165528]

Bill Rammell: We expect the 2007/08 Student Income and Expenditure Survey to be published in early 2009.

Students: Public Participation

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the selection criteria are for the establishment of *(a)* student juries and *(b)* the National Student Forum. [163079]

Bill Rammell: A working group of stakeholders from student representative bodies and other sector organisations will be meeting shortly to advise on the selection of participants for the student juries and the National Student Forum.

An independent company will undertake the recruitment of participants for the student juries, taking into account advice from the working group to ensure that juries are representative of the student population.

Members of the National Student Forum will be nominated by key student representation and advocacy groups. Those groups will be challenged to ensure that the forum is representative of the student population before making their final nominations.

The following representation and advocacy groups will be invited to nominate members:

	Number
The National Union of Students	7
The National Postgraduate Committee	3
The Open University Students' Association	1
The Mature Students' Union	2
Skill: The national bureau for students with disabilities	2
The British Council	2

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the terms of reference are for the National Student Forum; and how its independence will be ensured. [163080]

Bill Rammell: The National Student Forum will be given broad terms of reference to look at issues affecting the student experience, and will be free to set its own agenda. It is anticipated that the forum will wish to provide a student perspective on emerging policy areas, help to evaluate the impact of existing policy on students in different circumstances, and initiate discussion on areas of potential policy development.

An experienced and independent chair will be appointed to guide and oversee the work of the forum. It will also have independent secretariat support.

The forum will publish an annual report to which Ministers will respond publicly.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills by what means the findings of student juries will be made available to the public. [163081]

Bill Rammell: We currently have no plans to publish the findings of individual student juries. Reports from the juries will be received by the National Student Forum. We expect that the Forum will want to draw on views expressed by the juries in setting its own agenda. The Forum will publish an annual report setting out the issues it has looked at and any recommendations it wishes to offer, to which ministers will respond publicly, and it may choose to include material from the juries within that report.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills by what means the minutes of the National Student Forum will be made available to the public after each of its meetings. [163082]

Bill Rammell: Once established, the National Student Forum itself will be invited to draw up its own ways of working. There is no expectation at this stage that the Forum will make public the minutes of its discussions. The Forum will, however, be expected to publish an annual report setting out the issues it has looked at and any recommendations it wishes to offer, to which Ministers will respond publicly.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what criteria were used to select London, Sheffield, Bristol and Manchester to hold student juries; and where the fifth student jury will be held. [163083]

Bill Rammell: Two student juries will be held in London, and one in each of Sheffield, Bristol and Manchester. Our primary concern in selecting locations for student juries was to ensure a broad geographical spread and ease of access by public transport in order to maximise the number of potential participants.

Vocational Training

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of employers in England were involved in *(a)* 16+ apprenticeships and *(b)* Train to Gain in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08; and what proportion were engaged in both 16+ apprenticeships and Train to Gain in each year. [164201]

Mr. Lammy: In 2006 there were an estimated 130,000 employers involved in apprenticeships in England and 48,730 employers have been involved in Train to Gain between its introduction in April 2006 and July 2007. Figures are not available for individual years and for employers involved in both Train to Gain and Apprenticeships at this time. According to Small and Medium Enterprise Statistics published by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, in 2005 there were around one million businesses with one or more employees in England.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of conducting an audit of skills in England. [165159]

Bill Rammell: Understanding and addressing our nation's current and future skills needs is vital to the productivity and competitiveness of our economy. Lord Leitch's independent review, "Prosperity for all in the Global Economy: world class skills", published in December 2006 constituted an unprecedented analysis of the UK's current and future skills needs at the whole-economy level. The Government accepted the ambition recommended by Lord Leitch that we should aim to be a world leader on skills by 2020, benchmarked against the upper quartile of OECD countries, and in July we published "World Class Skills", setting out how we would deliver that ambition.

We have now set stretching targets for the progress we want to make by 2011, set out in the Delivery Agreement for the new Skills PSA target. We will monitor progress towards those target indicators and against our objectives through regular reporting mechanisms including the Labour Force Survey, a Skills for Life Survey and the Learning and Skills Council's National Employers Skills Survey.

Once it is fully operational next year, the new UK Commission for Employment and Skills will also play an important role in maintaining an overview of progress towards our world class skills ambitions in England.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Accountability

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what steps he intends to take to improve *(a)* his accountability as Prime Minister and *(b)* the accountability of his Office; [165590]

(2) if he will issue advice to officials drafting written parliamentary answers to *(a)* draw attention to the need to respond to questions tabled as if they were requests submitted under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and *(b)* to be as helpful as possible to hon. Members soliciting information; [165591]

(3) pursuant to the answers of 13 November, *Official Report*, columns 229-30W, on departmental visits, and column 232W on Tony Blair, what account he took of the Ministerial Code when supplying the answers; and what assessment he has made of the compliance of his answers with his stated objective that the Executive should treat Parliament with greater respect. [165594]

The Prime Minister: In accordance with the Ministerial Code, Ministers are accountable for the decisions and actions of their Departments, including answers to parliamentary questions.

Departmental Official Engagements

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations he met in the week commencing 5 November, excluding Ministers and officials. [165592]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

Diego Garcia: USA

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to ensure that there is a parliamentary debate before any decision is taken on whether to allow the US Administration to use Diego Garcia in any planned strikes against Iran. [165084]

The Prime Minister: We are fully committed to a negotiated solution and are working to ensure that this difficult issue will be resolved through diplomacy. The Government always ensure that any use of their bases is in accordance with international law.

Mass Media

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister which *(a)* newspaper proprietors, *(b)* newspaper editors and *(c)* chairmen and chief executives of broadcasting organisations he has met since assuming office. [165593]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

Michael Ashcroft

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the No. 10 Downing street press notice of 31 March 2000, what form Michael Ashcroft's clear and unequivocal assurance took that he would take up permanent residence in the UK prior to his introduction to the House of Lords. [165028]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the press notice issued on 31 March 2000.

Ministers: Codes of Practice

Mr. Burns: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 74W, on Ministers: codes of practice, if he will clarify which part of his answer related to the application of the rules in the Ministerial Code. [164690]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 74W.

Security Guards: Licensing

David Davis: To ask the Prime Minister when the Secretary of State for the Home Department first made him aware that at least 5,000 licences had been granted by the Security Industry Authority to applicants not legally entitled to work in the UK. [165892]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answers I gave to the right hon. Member for Witney (Mr. Cameron) and the hon. Member for West Chelmsford (Mr. Burns) at Prime Minister's questions on Wednesday 14 November 2007.

Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Prime Minister when he last visited Wales; and when he next expects to visit Wales. [165413]

The Prime Minister: A list of my UK visits will be published in the usual way following the end of the financial year.

TREASURY

Alcohol-related Deaths: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths where alcohol was the primary cause there were in *(a)* Dacorum and *(b)* Hemel Hempstead constituency in each of the last five years. [164118]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths where alcohol was the primary cause there were in *(a)* Dacorum and *(b)* Hemel Hempstead constituency in the last five years. (164118)

The attached table provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause, for *(a)* Dacorum local authority, and *(b)* Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency, for 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1], Dacorum local authority and Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency[2,3], 2002 to 2006[4]

	Deaths (persons)	
	Dacorum	Hemel Hempstead
2002	19	12
2003	10	3
2004	11	7
2005	18	11
2006	21	15

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the box below.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency is wholly contained within the boundaries of Dacorum local authority.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death - International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Capital Gains Tax

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many business owners have received capital gains tax taper relief since 1998. [164472]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* It is not possible to disaggregate the information requested from central data sources.

Colorectal Cancer

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were diagnosed with bowel cancer in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north east and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [165321]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people were diagnosed with bowel cancer in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997. (165321)

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2004 (United Kingdom). Numbers of cases of bowel cancer for the years 1997 to 2004 for (a) Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency, (b) South Tyneside County District, (c) North East Government Office Region and (d) United Kingdom are given in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of bowel cancers[1]: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district, north east government office region and United Kingdom, 1997 to 2004

	Jarrow	*South Tyneside*	*North east*	*United Kingdom*
1997	62	108	1,651	35,220
1998	54	111	1,741	35,731
1999	77	116	1,799	36,236
2000	68	122	1,772	36,071
2001	67	113	1,762	35,310
2002	63	133	1,781	35,119
2003	46	88	1,713	35,675
2004	66	135	1,766	36,109

[1] Bowel cancer is defined as code C18-C21 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

Source:
Office for National Statistics
Welsh Cancer Intelligence & Surveillance Unit.
Scottish Cancer Registry, National Health Service in Scotland.
Northern Ireland Cancer Registry

Departmental Flexible Working

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours in (i) his Department and (ii) the executive agencies for which the Department is responsible. [164326]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury and its agencies offer flexible working to staff where operational constraints permit. Many flexible working arrangements are made directly between managers and staff in line with Treasury guidance, and are not recorded. This information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what headcount change there has been against his Department's annual efficiency savings as part of the Gershon review; and if he will make a statement; [165176]

(2) what target reduction in staff in his core Department was agreed under the Spending Review 2004 up to 2007-08; what reduction was achieved; and if he will make a statement; [165177]

(3) how many full-time equivalent staff the Treasury Group has relocated outside London and the South-East through relocation plans made in response to the Lyons review; and if he will make a statement; [165178]

(4) pursuant to page seven of HM Treasury Efficiency Technical Note (December 2006) what *(a)* activities, *(b)* working practices and *(c)* workflow processes; were (i) terminated and (ii) redesigned in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement; [165525]

(5) which team and management structures within directorates were *(a)* terminated and *(b)* redesigned in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [165526]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury Group publishes actions taken to achieve its efficiency savings and progress against its headcount reduction and relocation targets in its Spring Annual Report and Accounts and Autumn Performance Report. These are available at: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk. The 2007 Autumn Performance Report will be published shortly.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the part-time permanent staff headcount was in *(a)* the core Treasury, *(b)* the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), *(c)* OGC Buying Solutions and *(d)* the Department Management Office in each year since 1998; and if he will make a statement. [165357]

Angela Eagle: The information for the full-time equivalent permanent staff headcount data for core Treasury, Office of Government Commerce (OGC), OGC Buying Solutions and the Debt Management Office in each year since 1998, can be located from the following website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/archive/index.asp

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the full-time equivalent permanent staff headcount was in *(a)* the core Treasury, *(b)* the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), *(c)* OGC Buying Solutions and *(d)* the Department Management Office in each year since 1998; and if he will make a statement. [165358]

Angela Eagle: The information for the full-time equivalent permanent staff headcount data for core Treasury, Office of Government Commerce (OGC), OGC Buying Solutions and the Debt Management Office since 1998, can be located from the following website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/archive/index.asp

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what entertainment or hospitality members of his Department's management board received in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [164746]

Angela Eagle: Paragraph 4.3.5 of the Civil Service Management Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by members of departmental boards. The first list for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the current calendar year.

Departmental Repairs and Maintenance

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent by his Department on renovation and refurbishment of its properties in each of the last five years. [164364]

Angela Eagle: In May 2000 HM Treasury entered into a 35 year PFI Contract with Exchequer Partnership (EP) in respect of its building at 1 Horse Guards Road. Under the terms of the contract EP refurbished the building, which was completed in July 2002. Under the contract EP is responsible for future refurbishments as necessary over the remainder of the life of the contract.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish his Department's autumn performance reports. [164880]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury will publish its autumn performance report for 2007 before the House rises for the Christmas recess.

Diabetes: Eastern Region

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths there were in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk as a result of diabetes in each of the last five years. [166152]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths there were in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk as a result of diabetes in each of the last five years. (166152)

The attached table provides the number of deaths where diabetes (i) was the underlying cause of death and (ii) was mentioned on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributing factor, in *(a)* East of England government office region and *(b)* Suffolk county, for 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Number of deaths from diabetes[1,2], East of England government office region, and Suffolk county[3], 2002-06[4]

Deaths (persons)

	East of England		*Suffolk*	
	(i) Underlying cause	*(ii) Any mention*	*(i) Underlying cause*	*(ii) Any mention*
2002	664	2,598	84	349
2003	610	2,717	99	396
2004	590	2,733	64	346
2005	599	2,973	88	396
2006	614	3,042	89	465

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E10-E14 (diabetes mellitus).
[2] Figures shown as 'any mention' (column ii) include those where diabetes was recorded as the underlying cause (column i).
[3] Based on boundaries as of 2007.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Drugs: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths where misuse of drugs was the primary cause there were in Hemel Hempstead constituency in each of the last five years. [164120]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 November 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths where misuse of drugs was the primary cause there were in Hemel Hempstead constituency in the last five years. (164120)

The most recent year for which figures are available is 2005. There were nine deaths certified as due to drug poisoning[1] and involving drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act[2] to residents of Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency[3] in the five years 2001 to 2005. They do not include deaths which may be indirectly related to drug use, such as blood-borne viral infections or transport accidents.

[1] Defined using the following codes from the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision F11-F16, F18-F19, X40-X44, X60-X64, Y10-Y14, XS5

[2] Drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 include class A, B and C drugs.

[3] Usual residents of Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency.

EC Nationals

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many EU citizens from other member states aged between 16 and 18 years old were resident in each local authority area in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [165148]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many EU citizens from other member states aged between 16 and 18 years were resident in each local authority area in each of the last three years for which figures are available. (165148)

Figures cannot be provided at the level of detail requested. The Labour Force Survey is the best available source on the characteristics of UK residents for the last three years. However, sample sizes from this source at this level are too small to provide estimates and could prove disclosive.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to reduce the fuel duty paid by individuals who use petrol and diesel powered farm machinery and agricultural road vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [164721]

Angela Eagle: Fuel duty helps the Government meet their targets of reducing polluting emissions and funding public services. Vehicles which are not used (or which are used only incidentally) on public roads are entitled to use rebated gas oil which is liable for a duty rebate of over 80 per cent.

Foreign Workers: EU Nationals

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of change in the number of EU A8 nationals in employment in the UK since the A8 accession; what estimate he made of the number of A8 nationals working in the UK prior to A8 accession; and if he will make a statement. [162354]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 19 November 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the number of EU A8 nationals in employment in the UK since the A8 accession and the number of A8 nationals working in the UK prior to accession. I am replying in her absence. (162354)

The attached table gives the number of A8 nationals in employment for the three month period ending June each year, from 2001 to 2007.

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis.

When interpreting the figures in the table, it is important to bear in mind that the LFS is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas, for the reasons which are set out in the table footnotes.

The LFS estimates at this detailed level are only available consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003 and are not comparable with the estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release on 14 November 2007, which are based on latest population estimates.

Estimates are taken from the LFS. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

People of working age[1] in employment by country of birth, three months ending June, 2001-07—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

		Thousand
	UK	*EU A8[2]*
2001	24,431	38
2002	24,426	36
2003	24,473	41
2004	24,471	74
2005	24,444	148
2006	24,177	245
2007	23,948	417

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.

[2] Accession 8 (A8) countries consist of: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia.

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates:

exclude those who have been resident in the UK for less than six months

exclude students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent

exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

are grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying 12 months or more

are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates as used in the Labour Market Statistics monthly First Release.

Source:

ONS Labour Force Survey

Inheritance Tax: Freedom of Information

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what role Ministers played in authorising the fast-tracking of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 request on inheritance tax released on 8 November. [164756]

Jane Kennedy: The disclosure made by the Treasury on 8 November 2007 was in response to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on 15 October 2007. In line with the requirements of the Act, the Treasury aims to answer all requests within 20 working days.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many days before the pre-budget report was published the section on inheritance tax was sent to the printers. [164772]

Jane Kennedy: The 2007 pre-Budget report (PBR) and comprehensive spending review (CSR) was published on 9 October. As is typically the case for all Budgets, pre-Budget reports and spending reviews, all material was sent to the printers in the final days before the publication date.

Lung Cancer

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were *(a)* diagnosed with and *(b)* died from lung cancer in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. [165400]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people have *(a)* been diagnosed with and *(b)* died from lung cancer in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. (165400)

The latest available figures for *(a)* newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2004 (United Kingdom). Numbers of cases of lung cancer for the years 1997 to 2004 for (i) Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency, (ii) South Tyneside County District, (iii) North East Government Office Region and (iv) United Kingdom are given in Table 1 below.

The latest available figures for *(b)* deaths are for the year 2006. Numbers of deaths from lung cancers for the years 1997 to 2006 for (i) Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency, (ii) South Tyneside County District, (iii) North East Government Office Region and (iv) United Kingdom are given in Table 2 below.

Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of lung cancers[1]: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district, North East government office region and United Kingdom, 1997-2004

	Jarrow	South Tyneside	North East	United Kingdom
1997	105	183	2,514	39,853
1998	97	172	2,455	39,289
1999	95	191	2,448	39,199
2000	95	181	2,356	39,164
2001	84	171	2,391	38,760
2002	72	141	2,389	38,171
2003	82	174	2,321	38,150
2004	98	184	2,243	38,313

1 Lung cancer is defined as code C33-C34 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
Sources:
1. Office for National Statistics.
2. Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit.
3. Scottish Cancer Registry, National Health Service in Scotland.
4. Northern Ireland Cancer Registry.

Table 2. Number of deaths where lung cancer[1] was the underlying cause of death: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district, North East government office region and United Kingdom, 1997-2006[2]

	Jarrow	South Tyneside	North East	United Kingdom
1997	91	167	2,173	34,801
1998	96	164	2,203	34,855
1999	90	165	2,145	34,086
2000	74	160	2,086	33,612
2001	75	155	2,115	33,523
2002	75	137	2,055	33,706
2003	63	142	2,038	33,424
2004	82	156	1,989	33,053
2005	73	141	2,075	33,503
2006	77	131	2,123	34,226

1 Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 162 for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C33-C34 for subsequent years. The introduction of ICD-10 means that the numbers of deaths from cancer before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
2 Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
Notes:
1. UK figures include deaths of non-residents in Scotland and Northern Ireland, but not in England and Wales.
2. UK figures for 2006 include figures for Northern Ireland which are provisional until the publication of the Registrar General Annual Report in December 2007.
Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Minimum Wage

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* Government region earn no more than the minimum wage; and what percentage of the working population each figure represents. [165198]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking how many people in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* Government region earn no more than the minimum wage; and what percentage of the working population each figure represents. (165198)

Estimates for the number of jobs which earn no more than the national minimum wage are not available. I attach a table showing the number of jobs earning less than the national minimum wage by available Government Office Region. Estimates for each London borough are not available.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

Estimates of UK jobs[1] paid below minimum wage by Government Office Region, 2007

Government Office Region	Thousand	Percentage
North East	16	2
North West (including Merseyside)	32	1
Yorks and Humber	24	1
East Midlands	25	1
West Midlands	26	1
Eastern	27	1
London	23	1
South East	32	1

Estimates of UK jobs[1] paid below minimum wage by Government Office Region, 2007

Government Office Region	Thousand	Percentage
South West	25	1
Wales	17	2
Scotland	30	1
Northern Ireland	15	2
All	292	1

1 Estimates are for those aged 16 and over.
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* Eastbourne, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* England earn no more than the minimum wage; and what percentage of the relevant population in work each figure represents. [165318]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people in (a) Eastbourne, (b) East Sussex and (c) England earn the minimum wage; and what percentage of the relevant population in work each figure represents. (165318)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid at the national minimum wage are not available. However, estimates for the number of jobs paid below the national minimum wage are available for Government Office Regions but not at local authority level. I attach a table showing the number of jobs earning less than the national minimum wage for each of the Government Office Regions in England along with the total.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics web site at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

Estimates of UK jobs[1] paid below minimum wage by Government office region, 2007

Government office region	Number (Thousand)	Percentage
North East	16	2
North West (including Merseyside)	32	1
Yorkshire and the Humber	24	1
East Midlands	25	1
West Midlands	26	1
Eastern	27	1
London	23	1
South East	32	1
South West	25	1
England	230	1

1 Estimates are for those aged 16 and over.
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Northern Rock

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) by what mechanism he calculated the amount to be paid by Northern Rock for the guarantee given by the Government to that company's depositors; and if he will make a statement; [164173]

(2) what discussions he has had about the treatment for accounting purposes of the guarantee given to Northern Rock depositors; and if he will make a statement. [164236]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1187W.

Office of Government Commerce

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which of the Office of Government Commerce's *(a)* internal processes, *(b)* purchase orders and *(c)* invoicing processes were automated in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [165221]

Angela Eagle: In 2003-04, OGC automated the review and authorisation of Government procurement card transactions, the recording of these transactions in the financial ledgers and the automatic production of electronic remittance advices from the finance system. Purchase order processing were automated in 2006-07. Sales invoices were automated prior to 2003-04.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of relocating posts from London to Liverpool by the Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement; [165224]

(2) how many posts were relocated from London to Liverpool by the Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [165225]

Angela Eagle: No cost was incurred.

15 posts were relocated from London to Liverpool by OGC buying solutions in 2006-07.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on travel costs of the use of video conferencing by the Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [165228]

Angela Eagle: A figure for the reduction in travel costs through the use of video conferencing in OGCbuying.solutions has not been calculated for the period requested. However, OGCbuying.solutions has recently completed a procurement exercise to upgrade its existing audio/video facilities. As part of the business case for this, a target saving of £30,000 per year on travel costs has been set (from April 2008 when the new facilities will become available).

Personal Income

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the median income is in the UK; how many people have less than *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30, *(d)* 40, *(e)* 50, *(f)* 60 and *(g)* 70 per cent. of that income; how many people have (i) 25, (ii) 50, (iii) 100, (iv) 200,

(v) 300, (vi) 400, (vii) 500, (viii) 600, (ix) 700, (x) 800, (xi) 900, (xii) 1,000, (xiii) 2,000, (xiv) 5,000, (xv) 10,000 and (xvi) 20,000 per cent. higher incomes than that income; and what the threshold income is in each case. [163061]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the median income is in the UK; how many people have (a) 10 per cent., (b) 20 per cent., (c) 30 per cent., (d) 40 per cent., (e) 50 per cent., (f) 60 per cent, and (g) 70 per cent, of that income; how many people have (i) 25 per cent., (ii) 50 per cent., (iii) 100 per cent., (iv) 200 per cent., (v) 300 per cent., (vi) 400 per cent., (vii) 500 per cent., (viii) 600 per cent., (ix) 700 per cent., (x) 800 per cent., (xi) 900 per cent., (xii) 1000 per cent., (xiii) 2,000 per cent., (xiv) 5,000 per cent., (xv) 10,000 per cent, and (xvi) 20,000 per cent, higher incomes than that income; and what the threshold income is in each case. (163061)

ONS is unable to provide estimates for income, but has given estimates for earnings estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE). Estimates provided are for all employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. ONS is not able to provide estimates of the numbers of people in each category.

I attach a table showing the median earnings for all UK employees and the percentage of employees in each of the categories outlined above from the 2007 survey.

Percentage of UK Employee[a] jobs earnings less than percentages of the median in 2007

Percentage of all employees median earnings (£374.9)	*Threshold Earnings (£)*	*Percentage of all employees earning less than the percentage of median*
10	38	1.8
20	75	5.2
30	113	9.7
40	150	14.2
50	187	18.7
60	225	24.0
70	262	30.5

2007 UK Employees Median Gross Weekly Earnings = £374.9

Percentage of UK Employed jobs earnings greater than percentages of the median in 2007

Percentage higher than all employees median earnings (£374.9)	*Threshold Earnings (£)*	*Percentage of all employees earning more than the percentage of median*
25	469	36.6
50	562	26.2
100	750	12.8
200	1,125	4.1
300	1,500	1.9
400	1,874	1.0
500	2,249	0.5
600	2,624	*0.3
700	2,999	*0.2
800	3,374	*0.1
900	3,749	*0.1
1000	4,124	**0.1
2000+	7,872	<0.1

[a] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

Guide to quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality.

The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5%, we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

CV <= 5%

* CV > 5% and <= 10%

** CV> 10%and <=20%

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Research and Development Tax Credit

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many UK companies have claimed tax credits for research and development since the introduction of the scheme. [164264]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* National statistics published on the HMRC website show that around 23,000 claims have been made for R&D tax credits in the first five years of the scheme. These claims have been made by a total of just under 12,000 companies, reflecting the fact that companies can make numerous claims.

Service Industries: Dacorum

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of people in Dacorum are employed in *(a)* service industries and *(b)* manufacturing industries; and if he will make a statement. [164126]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about employment in Dacorum. (164126)

In 2005, an estimated 88 per cent of employee jobs in Dacorum were in service industries and 7 per cent were in manufacturing industries. These estimates are from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI). They do not include self-employment jobs and are not seasonally adjusted.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the ABI are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Skilled Workers: Dacorum

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of people in Dacorum are classified as *(a)* professionals and *(b)* skilled workers; and if he will make a statement. [164125]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about employment. (164125)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The percentage of people resident in the Dacorum local authority who are employed in professional and skilled trades occupations for the 12-month period ending March 2007 was, respectively, 11 and 9 per cent. of all those in employment.

Professional and skilled workers are classified using the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 2000 for Professional Occupations and Skilled Trades Occupations respectively.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Statistics Commission: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what efficiency gains in relation to the HM Treasury Efficiency Technical Note of December 2006 have been made by the Statistics Commission in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [165304]

Angela Eagle: Under the HM Treasury Efficiency Note of December 2006 the Statistics Commission agreed to budget within "flat cash" grant funding through to 2007-08. It has achieved this for the period 2003-04 to 2006-07 and expects to do so in 2007-08. In 2004-05 the commission was allowed additional grant in aid to fund relocation. This relocation saved £487,000 on accommodation costs over the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 in cash terms, and new contractual arrangements saved a further £30,000, which was redistributed to staffing and research.

Sterling

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the purchasing power was as at November 2007 of the pound sterling at May 1997 prices. [164115]

Kitty Ussher: Estimates of the purchasing power of the pound sterling are conditional on the price index one uses to deflate from 1997.

The ONS provides price indices data in the monthly publication "Focus on Consumer Price Indices". The most recent publication is available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/Focus_on_CPI_September_2007.pdf

Taxation: Domicile

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people claiming non-domicile tax status in the UK who were born in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [164225]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC does not hold information on how many individuals claiming non-domicile tax status in the UK were born in the UK.

Taxation: Rebates

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value of unclaimed tax refunds was in each year since 2001. [164123]

Jane Kennedy: Tax refunds are made either as a result of a taxpayer filing a tax return or making a specific claim. The information requested on the total value of unclaimed tax refunds since 2001 is not available.

Telephone Services: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were employed in *(a)* call centres and *(b)* manufacturing in Hemel Hempstead constituency in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [164119]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question asking how many people were employed in *(a)* call centres and *(b)* manufacturing in Hemel Hempstead constituency in the last year for which figures are available. (164119)

There were an estimated 3,000 employee jobs in manufacturing industries in Hemel Hempstead constituency in 2005. This estimate is from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI). It does not include self-employment jobs and is not seasonally adjusted. Information about employment in call centres is not available.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the ABI are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

VAT: Contraceptives

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on reducing the VAT rate on condoms. [164303]

Jane Kennedy: Ministers from HM Treasury and the Department of Health regularly discuss a wide range of issues. The Government reduced the rate of VAT chargeable on condoms and other contraceptive products sold on an over the counter basis to 5 per cent. on 1 July 2006. The rate of VAT chargeable on these products is now the lowest rate allowed under our VAT agreements with our European partners.

VAT: Game

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will make it his policy to apply standard rate value-added tax to game birds which are bred for sport; and if he will make a statement; [165441]

(2) what his estimate is of the amount of *(a)* business rates and *(b)* VAT which the game bird shooting industry has paid in the last 12 months; what estimate he has made of its liability for each; and if he will make a statement. [165859]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 10 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 725W.

No such estimates have been made.

Weather: Mortality Rates

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people over the age of 65 died during the winter months in *(a)* England and *(b)* the UK in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [165320]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 November 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people over the age of 65 died during the winter months in (a) England and (b) the UK in each year since 1997. (165320)

The latest available data are for 2005. The tables below contain the number of deaths in persons aged 65 and over for England and the UK. As there is no standard definition of winter, figures are supplied for every month.

Table 1: Number of deaths in persons aged 65 and over, by month of death, England, 1997 to 2005

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	35,558	40,120	32,006	33,764	40,962	44,134	40,534	41,482	41,320
February	37,308	35,933	36,732	34,744	34,871	34,347	34,890	33,601	35,023
March	35,731	39,154	37,292	34,217	38,133	36,419	36,856	35,261	38,448
April	33,781	37,053	32,657	33,070	34,102	33,649	34,984	32,064	33,079
May	33,760	34,190	32,629	32,095	33,611	33,144	33,577	31,846	32,649
June	31,789	32,171	31,314	31,121	31,565	31,612	30,679	30,385	29,963
July	32,166	32,827	31,308	31,549	31,940	32,322	31,641	30,787	29,720
August	31,621	32,164	31,562	30,466	30,738	31,079	32,959	30,590	29,760
September	31,441	31,930	30,862	29,809	31,180	30,871	31,056	29,879	28,337
October	34,421	35,299	34,293	33,416	32,504	34,764	34,826	32,728	31,229
November	35,315	35,406	33,956	34,460	33,873	33,923	37,049	31,909	32,022
December	39,382	46,433	48,609	37,371	38,709	39,365	40,557	37,882	37,045
Not known	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	2

Table 2: Number of deaths in persons aged 65 and over, by month of death, United Kingdom, 1997 to 2005

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	66,471	48,439	62,696	64,817	49,462	52,695	49,873	50,012	49,374
February	44,878	43,217	45,127	41,832	41,881	41,546	42,135	40,620	42,297
March	43,088	47,323	45,310	41,327	45,988	44,024	44,384	42,654	46,748
April	40,665	44,767	39,716	39,968	41,215	40,668	42,197	38,901	40,039
May	40,774	41,201	39,481	38,897	40,523	40,006	40,748	38,630	39,514
June	38,557	38,812	37,838	37,720	37,992	38,113	37,255	36,767	36,429
July	38,951	39,609	37,827	37,979	38,535	39,046	38,217	37,246	36,038
August	38,295	38,959	38,230	36,767	37,244	37,632	39,570	36,986	35,966
September	37,883	38,587	37,334	36,331	37,839	37,547	37,660	36,301	34,489
October	41,644	42,623	41,280	40,317	39,436	41,883	42,026	39,690	37,813
November	42,562	42,555	41,008	41,492	40,681	41,091	44,734	38,538	38,611
December	47,487	54,943	58,675	44,877	46,482	47,422	48,787	45,499	44,503
Not known	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	2

Welfare Tax Credits

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests to reconsider the recovery of overpayments of working tax credit were received by HM Revenue and Customs in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* 2006; and if he will make a statement. [163392]

Jane Kennedy: Information about requests to reconsider the recovery of working tax credit overpayments is not kept separately from other tax credit disputes.

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate for each type of tax credit the value of unclaimed credits in each parliamentary constituency. [164122]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the amounts unclaimed for Child and Working Tax Credits in 2003-04 and 2004-05 are available in Table 1 in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credit take-up rates", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm.

The same information is not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people had tax credit payments suspended due to overpayments in *(a)* each county in England and Wales and *(b)* Hemel Hempstead constituency in each year since tax credits were introduced; [164116]

(2) how many tax credit claimants had *(a)* in-year and *(b)* end-of-year adjustments made to their awards in each year since 2003-04; and in how many in-year adjustments the tax credit award was reduced to zero. [164121]

Jane Kennedy: Information on the number of tax credit customers who have an overpayment at the end of each year for 2003-04 to 2005-06 to be recovered either directly or by reducing an ongoing award for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is published in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards. Supplement on Payments". These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

The same information by county and constituency, is available in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analysis", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

The same information for 2006-07 is due to be published in May 2008.

The information requested on how many customers are having payments reduced due to overpayment recovery is not readily available and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Welfare Tax Credits: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit claimants in Hemel Hempstead constituency there were in each year since the scheme began; and how many have been *(a)* underpaid and *(b)* overpaid. [164117]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including information on overpayments and underpayments by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are available in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analysis", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

The same information for 2006-07 will be available in May 2008.

Welfare Tax Credits: Islington

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Islington North constituency were in receipt of tax credits in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* equivalent figure and *(b)* average amount paid was in each of the last three years. [164902]

Jane Kennedy: The latest information on the number of recipient families with tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency, is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. April 2007". Equivalent snapshot figures for April 2005 and 2006 are also published.

For the average amount paid, information on average annual entitlements by each parliamentary constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, is produced in the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Geographical Analyses", for each relevant year. All of these publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Charities: Political Activities

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Government's proposals for reform of charity legislation will allow charities to be set up and run *(a)* exclusively and *(b)* mainly for (i) political and (ii) campaigning purposes. [164212]

Phil Hope: To qualify as a charity in England and Wales, an organisation must be established for exclusively charitable purposes which are for the public benefit. The activities of a charity can include campaigning and political activities provided they are likely to further or support the charity's charitable purposes.

The Charities Act 2006 represents an important reform of the legal and regulatory framework for charities, and there are currently no plans for further legislation to reform charity law.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Government's proposals on charities engaging in political campaigning will apply to student unions. [164213]

Phil Hope: Most students' unions are charities, and like other charities they must comply with charity law, including the rules on engaging in political campaigning. The Charity Commission and what was then the Department for Education and Skills have published guidance for students' unions, which includes details on campaigning and political activity.

Departmental Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many reports have been made to the Cabinet Office's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised Civil Service Code since its publication on 6 June 2006; [162428]

(2) how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to the Cabinet Office by departmental staff since 6 June 2006; [162429]

(3) when the Cabinet Office's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised Civil Service Code. [162430]

Gillian Merron: Guidance on whistleblowing is set out in the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Directory of Civil Service Guidance". Both documents are being updated, and the revised versions will incorporate the provisions of the new Civil Service Code. Departmental whistleblowing procedures will be amended to reflect the revised guidance.

I understand that the Civil Service Commissioners intend from 1 April 2008 to monitor Departments' procedures and collect information on all issues raised under the "Civil Service Code" and not just those appeals made to them. They will report on this in their annual reports.

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Cabinet Office arranges training for *(a)* nominated officers and *(b)* staff of other Government Departments on handling whistleblowing concerns. [162442]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office hosted a number of seminars for departmental nominated officers in the lead up to the publication of the new Civil Service Code and further cross-departmental events are planned. The Cabinet Office also provides advice and support to Departments on individual cases when requested.

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many cases alleging victimisation for whistleblowing were taken to the Civil Service Appeal Board in the last year for which figures are available. [162443]

Gillian Merron: Statistics on the number of appeals heard in each of the last 10 years can be found in Appendix 3 of each of the Board's Annual Reports. Copies can be found on the Board's website at: www.civilserviceappealboard.gov.uk. The Board has confirmed that it did not receive, or hear, any cases during 2006-07 involving allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards ensuring that ambulance services call centre staff have clinical expertise. [162617]

Mr. Bradshaw: Ambulance trusts are currently taking forward work on the delivery of a national competency framework, and of a performance management framework, for control rooms and these will be used to inform the development of nationally recognised education and training programmes for ambulance call handling staff.

Ambulance Services: Global Navigation Satellite Systems

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the *(a)* suitability and *(b)* effectiveness of navigation systems used by ambulance services, with particular reference to Terrafix. [162618]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has made no assessments on the suitability or effectiveness of navigation systems used by the ambulance service. Ambulance trusts decide locally which navigational systems they wish to procure; therefore, assessment of suitability and effectiveness will be a matter for each national health service ambulance trust to manage locally.

Ambulance Services: Standards

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that all ambulance trusts meet national response time requirements; and if he will make a statement. [166088]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is for strategic health authorities (SHAs), as the local headquarters of the national health service, and primary care trusts (PCTs), as commissioners, to ensure that national response time standards are delivered and maintained by ambulance trusts. The Department, via the Recovery and Support Unit discusses performance with SHAs to ensure that SHAs work with local organisations to address performance issues, and if appropriate with support from the National Ambulance Performance Implementation Lead.

In 2008, changes to performance reporting will be introduced, which will align the reported response times more closely to patients' experience. The Department is supporting ambulance trusts to prepare for this change by providing advice and specialist support, and facilitating the sharing of data, analysis and best practice.

The Department implemented a £25 million capital incentive scheme during 2006-07. A similar scheme operated in 2004-05. Both schemes rewarded trusts who demonstrated improved levels of performance including response times.

The Healthcare Commission assesses ambulance trusts, and PCTs on performance against national response time requirements.

British Psychological Society

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that when regulations are issued in relation to the Draft Order in Council under section 62 (10) of the Health Act 1999 relating to the Health Care and Associated Professions (Miscellaneous amendments) (No. 2) Order 2007, that the order contains provisions that will allow the free transfer of the appropriate membership lists from the Association of Educational Psychologists similar to that facility proposed for the British Psychological Society and its members. [163671]

Mr. Bradshaw: Draft legislation to introduce statutory regulation of educational psychologists is due to be published shortly. It will contain a provision for all current practitioners subject to voluntary regulation which demonstrates their fitness to practise safely and competently to be automatically transferred to the statutory register.

Cancer: Drugs

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts in England provide funding for Sunitinib for patients with renal cancer who have failed to respond to all other treatments. [165891]

Ann Keen: The Department does not hold information on which primary care trusts (PCTs) in England provide funding for Sunitinib (sutent) for patients with renal cancer who have failed to respond to all other treatments.

Sunitinib is licensed in the United Kingdom for the treatment of renal cell carcinoma and gastrointestinal stromal tumours.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently appraising Sunitinib for renal cell carcinoma.

In the meantime, it is for local PCTs to decide whether to make Sunitinib available to patients. In doing so, they need to take into account the available evidence. It is not acceptable for national health service organisations to refuse to fund a treatment simply because it has not been appraised by NICE.

Departmental NDPBs

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; who the chairman is of each; and to what salary, including bonuses and expenses, each chairman is entitled. [163617]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on all the Department's public bodies is published annually by the Cabinet Office in the Public Bodies Directory. This is available at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/agencies/public_bodies/index.asp

The directory for each year from 1998 to 2006 is currently available and the 2007 directory will be available before the end of the year.

Edgware Hospital: Rheumatology

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that rheumatologists at Edgware hospital will be able to continue to refer patients direct to physiotherapy and podiatry services at Edgware hospital on the same day; what the reasons were for the change in these arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [162988]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a matter for the local national health service. It is for the local health organisations to decide how to best serve their local communities.

Edgware Hospital: Surgery

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to facilitate access to out-of-hours operating theatre capacity at Edgware hospital; when these plans will be enacted; and if he will make a statement. [162987]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a matter for the local national health service. It is for the local health organisations to decide how to best serve their local communities.

General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of GP practices have had facilities available for *(a)* video and *(b)* telephone links to hospital consultants in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [162240]

Mr. Bradshaw: These data are not collected centrally.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that the 100 new GP practices for the 25 per cent. of primary care trusts with the poorest primary care provision are *(a)* able to embrace the latest, most modern models of primary care, *(b)* situated in convenient locations and *(c)* open into the evenings and at weekends. [163363]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is for primary care trusts (PCTS) to determine the detailed service specification that contractors will be invited to tender to provide. We will expect PCTs to look to procure innovative solutions and models of provision that will contribute to improvements in access and outcomes for patients through the primary health care services secured.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date *(a)* the first and *(b)* all the 100 new general practitioner practices for the 25 per cent. of primary care trusts with the poorest primary care provision will be open. [163368]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 25 per cent. of primary care trusts that have been identified as having the poorest primary medical care provision are developing their delivery plans to meet local needs. The Department is now working with the national health service to ensure that the proposed services are commissioned and this includes discussions around timescales.

General Practitioners: Hendon

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* improve access to GP appointments in Hendon; and if he will make a statement. [162991]

Mr. Bradshaw: The General Practitioner Patient Survey is the best indicator of public views on current access arrangements for GP services. The survey's results at national, primary care trust and GP practice levels were published in July 2007. We expect PCTs to analyse their own survey results to understand local variation between their practices as well as patient needs, and have asked them to provide action plans by December for the delivery of access improvements.

General Practitioners: Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the ratio of practising NHS general practitioners to population was in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* England in the last year for which figures are available. [164114]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of general medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) per 100,000 head of population for England, the East of England strategic health authority area and the two Hertfordshire primary care trusts.

	All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)	*Number (headcount) All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) per 100,000 head of population*
England	33,091	65.3
East Of England	3,568	64.4
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	317	61.1
West Hertfordshire PCT	349	65.9

Note:
General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP and GP others.
Sources:
1. The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.
2. Resident Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics.

General Practitioners: Retirement

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many single GP surgeries have closed following the retirement of the doctor in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [161918]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally.

General Practitioners: Telephone Services

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of NHS GP surgeries in Leicester use premium rate phone lines for patient appointments; what guidance his Department provides to NHS GP surgeries on the use of premium rate phone lines for patient appointments; and if he will make a statement. [164132]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally.

East Midlands strategic health authority (SHA) reports that no general practice surgeries in Leicester use premium rate phone lines for patient appointments but that a number of surgeries do use 084 lo-call numbers.

The SHA reports that Leicester City primary care trust (PCT) is reviewing the use of 084 numbers as part of its improving access strategy. This review is taking place during November and the PCT should be in a position to report in December.

The provision of telephone services for patients and the public is a matter for the local national health service. The Department did however issue guidance in December of last year clearly setting out that patients should not be charged more than the equivalent of a local call.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department estimates GP surgeries receive in revenue from calls to 0844 revenue sharing numbers; [164453]

(2) how many GPs' surgeries in each primary care trust area use 0844 revenue sharing telephone numbers; [164454]

(3) through what mechanism GP surgeries receive payment from calls to 0844 revenue sharing numbers. [164455]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* We do not collect information centrally on the use of 084 telephone numbers.

The provision of telephone services for patients and the public is a matter for the local national health service. The Department did however issue guidance in December of last year clearly setting out that patients should not be charged more than the equivalent of a local call.

Health Services: Armed Forces

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to ensure that there is a consistent implementation of the policy of priority treatment for armed services veterans by general practitioners and hospital clinicians; and if he will make a statement. [162362]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department sends out periodic reminders about the arrangements for priority treatment for war pensioners. Another reminder will be sent out shortly.

Hearing Aids: Waiting Lists

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for hearing aid assessments in each primary care trust in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [165088]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information on audiology assessments is shown in the following table.

Diagnostic waiting statistics concerning audiology assessments for all primary care trusts (PCTs) in England, patients still waiting at the end of the month, time period—month ending September 2007

Area	*Average median time of patients still waiting (in weeks)*
Newcastle PCT	24.1
North Tyneside PCT	13.2
Hartlepool PCT	3.1
North Tees PCT	6.3
Darlington PCT	47.1
Gateshead PCT	3.9
South Tyneside PCT	n/a
Sunderland Teaching PCT	n/a
Middlesbrough PCT	6.2
County Durham	28.3
Redcar and Cleveland	5.9
Northumberland Care Trust	24.3
Blackburn With Darwen PCT	1.6
Salford PCT	2.9
Stockport PCT	n/a

Diagnostic waiting statistics concerning audiology assessments for all primary care trusts (PCTs) in England, patients still waiting at the end of the month, time period—month ending September 2007

Area	Average median time of patients still waiting (in weeks)
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	5.2
Blackpool PCT	16.6
Bolton PCT	0.9
Warrington PCT	12.1
Knowsley PCT	14.8
Oldham PCT	n/a
Bury PCT	1.0
Tameside and Glossop PCT	3.2
Cumbria	8.6
North Lancashire	8.9
Central Lancashire	40.6
East Lancashire	1.4
Sefton	1.5
Wirral	2.5
Liverpool	16.9
Halton and St Helens	13.1
West Cheshire	over 52 weeks
Central and Eastern Cheshire	4.1
Rochdale, Heywood and Middleton	1.4
Trafford	3.2
Manchester	0.6
North Lincolnshire PCT	49.8
Rotherham PCT	1.6
Calderdale PCT	n/a
Barnsley PCT	2.9
Leeds	20.9
Kirklees	n/a
Wakefield	n/a
Sheffield	2.3
Doncaster	3.5
North Yorkshire and York	3.9
East Riding of Yorkshire	over 52 weeks
Hull Teaching	over 52 weeks
Bradford and Airedale Teaching	10.1
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	34.1
Nottingham City PCT	4.4
Bassetlaw PCT	n/a
Derbyshire County	3.3
Derby City	n/a
Nottinghamshire County Teaching	3.4
Lincolnshire Teaching	48.4
Leicestershire County and Rutland	6.4
Leicester City Teaching	6.7
Northamptonshire Teaching	7.4
Herefordshire PCT	over 52 weeks
South Birmingham PCT	4.2
Shropshire County PCT	4.6
Walsall PCT	n/a
Coventry PCT	3.3
Telford and Wrekin PCT	4.6
Wolverhampton City PCT	4.7
Heart of Birmingham PCT	4.1
Dudley	over 52 weeks
Sandwell	2.0
Birmingham East and North	3.0
North Staffordshire	40.1
Stoke on Trent Teaching	44.7
South Staffordshire	30.7
Worcestershire	4.0
Warwickshire	2.6
Solihull PCT	2.3
Luton PCT	n/a
South East Essex	3.9
Bedfordshire	3.9
East and North Hertfordshire	n/a
West Hertfordshire	23.4
Peterborough	2.7
Cambridgeshire	4.1
Norfolk	5.3
Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching	3.6
Suffolk	3.2
West Essex	4.7
North East Essex	5.1
Mid Essex	0.7
South West Essex Teaching	n/a
Havering PCT	31.4
Kingston PCT	23.7
Bromley PCT	8.2
Greenwich PCT	23.0
Barnet PCT	n/a
Hillingdon PCT	n/a
Enfield PCT	n/a
Barking and Dagenham PCT	23.3
City and Hackney PCT	n/a
Tower Hamlets PCT	n/a
Newham PCT	4.9
Haringey PCT	n/a
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	8.2
Ealing PCT	34.2
Hounslow PCT	13.8
Brent PCT	8.8
Harrow PCT	12.4
Camden PCT	n/a
Islington PCT	n/a
Croydon PCT	15.9
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	n/a
Westminster PCT	3.3
Lambeth PCT	8.9
Southwark PCT	8.8
Lewisham PCT	6.6
Wandsworth PCT	3.9
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	12.9
Sutton and Merton PCT	3.6

Diagnostic waiting statistics concerning audiology assessments for all primary care trusts (PCTs) in England, patients still waiting at the end of the month, time period—month ending September 2007

Area	Average median time of patients still waiting (in weeks)
Redbridge PCT	11.2
Waltham Forest PCT	11.3
Bexley Care Trust	6.3
Medway PCT	15.4
Brighton and Hove City PCT	25.1
Surrey	10.1
West Sussex Teaching	27.4
East Sussex Downs and Weald	24.8
Hastings and Rother	3.9
West Kent	18.2
Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching	50.4
Milton Keynes PCT	2.2
Portsmouth City PCT	15.3
Southampton City PCT	2.0
Hampshire	10.7
Buckinghamshire	4.2
Oxfordshire	3.7
Berkshire West	3.1
Berkshire East Teaching	6.4
Isle of Wight Healthcare	15.0
South Gloucestershire PCT	22.5
Plymouth PCT	2.8
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	13.9
Swindon PCT	1.8
North Somerset PCT	28.1
Gloucestershire	44.8
Bristol Teaching	6.7
Wiltshire	26.4
Somerset	3.7
Dorset	5.1
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching	4.9
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	2.9
Devon	3.8
Torbay Care Trust	n/a
England	11.1

n/a = For organisations with less than 100 audiological assessment waiters, no median has been calculated as the small data set may lead to statistical inaccuracies.

Note:

1. Some organisations have a median of 'over 52 weeks'. As this is the latest timeband data are collected for, a more accurate measure could not be calculated.

Source:

Diagnostic Monthly Monitoring (DM01)

Herbal Medicine: EC Law

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what records his Department holds on the anticipated range of charges to be levied by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency for processing applications under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive for *(a)* single ingredient products and *(b)* more complex products; and what assistance he plans to make available to small manufacturers to meet these charges; [163490]

(2) if he will make it his policy urgently to survey specialist manufacturers of herbal remedies to identify the total likely cost burden of submitting dossiers for registration under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; and if he will make a statement; [163491]

(3) if Ministers in his Department will meet a delegation of specialist manufacturers of herbal remedies to discuss compliance with the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; [163492]

(4) how the proposed fee of £7,480 for processing applications for registration of complex herbal products under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive has been calculated; and how many such fee payments the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency expects to receive annually; [163493]

(5) how *(a)* the proposed fee of £1,496 for a single day inspection of a manufacturer of herbal products and *(b)* the fee of £1,266 for inspection of a wholesale dealer under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive has been calculated; with what frequency such inspections are expected to be undertaken in relation to any one applicant for registration of products under the legislation; and how many of each such fee payments the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency expects to receive annually; [163494]

(6) whether a full economic impact assessment has been undertaken and published on the proposed fee increases for applications for registration under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive as set out in the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency's consultation letter of 17 October 2007; [163495]

(7) if he will estimate *(a)* the anticipated fee income to the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency associated with the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive and *(b)* the net cost of processing the necessary applications. [163496]

Dawn Primarolo: The registration scheme for Traditional Herbal Medicines was introduced in 2005 and the industry was fully consulted on how the scheme would work. The Department appreciates that for many companies moving from what was, for the main part, an unregulated environment into one where systematic standards need to be met does present significant challenges.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has therefore sought to minimise the impact as far as possible by, for example, making full use of the permitted transitional period, until 2011, for products that were legally on the market in April 2004. This allows companies time to prepare to meet the new requirements. In addition, the MHRA continues to have extensive discussions with the industry's herbal forum about the practical arrangements for implementing the directive, and has taken a wide range of practical measures to contain regulatory impact.

The MHRA is a trading fund and is fully funded by fees for its medicines regulatory work. It monitors costs against fees charged and reviews its fee levels annually. Fees are set, in accordance with Treasury guidelines, with a view to achieving cost recovery for each activity for which it sets a charge.

The agency published a consultation document (MIX 344) on 17 October proposing changes to the fees it charges in relation to the regulation of human medicines, including traditional herbal medicines, to take effect from 1 April 2008. Full details of all fees in relation to traditional herbal medicines are included in this letter. The MHRA also has provisions for easements of payment of certain capital fees by smaller companies. The consultation letter and details of provisions for smaller companies are available on its website:

www.mhra.gov.uk.

The consultation letter includes a draft impact assessment relating to the whole package of fees changes proposed in the letter. The letter also specifically invites smaller companies to respond to the MHRA with details of the effects the proposals will have on their company. The consultation runs until 9 January 2008. The MHRA would particularly welcome responses from traditional herbal medicines companies to complete the impact assessment more fully.

Individual fees for the herbal medicines registration scheme, for applications and inspections, were subject to full consultation before they were set in 2005. The fees were based on an estimate of the amount of time it would take to undertake each of the activities and the costs of the relevant staff that would be required to undertake those activities. Applications that are more complex take longer to assess and can require staff with more experience to undertake the work. These costs are reflected in the fee charged. The proposed fee of £7,480 for processing applications for registration of complex herbal products containing two or more ingredients not previously assessed by the agency reflects the additional work that would be necessary when assessing ingredients for the first time. The MHRA, however, anticipates that only a minority of applications will fall into this category.

In setting its fees each year, the agency targets specific changes to fees according to the outcome of a rigorous costing model. The costing model is informed by anticipated unavoidable costs for the agency for the coming year as well as by performance and specific costs in each area of the agency's work. The fees for inspections for traditional herbal products are proposed to be increased by 9.7 per cent. for 2008-09 in line with the outcome from the costing exercise undertaken this year. Other fees in other areas of the agency's work are proposed to change by different amounts all with the intention of recovering full costs for those areas of work.

Inspections of herbal manufacturers are expected to take place when the application for the manufacturing licence is made and thereafter at least every three years. Based on experience with the scheme so far, the MHRA estimates that 10 inspections of this type might take place in 2008-09. MHRA is currently consulting on proposals for a risk-based inspection strategy which is intended to reduce the regulatory burden of inspections for compliant companies.

Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust: Finance

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the monetary value was of the budget reductions made by Hertfordshire Partnership Trust in the *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07 financial year. [162914]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service trusts do not receive budgets from the Department but receive income from primary care trusts for services they provide.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the percentage reduction was in the Hertfordshire Partnership Trust budget for the *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07 financial year. [162915]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service trusts do not receive budgets from the Department but receive income from primary care trusts for services they provide.

Hillingdon Primary Care Trust: Procurement

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when, and on what terms he permitted Hillingdon Primary Care Trust to access the suppliers under the Framework for External Support for Commissioning. [164046]

Mr. Bradshaw: Hillingdon Primary Care Trust (PCT) issued tender documentation to a range of relevant suppliers on 2 June 2007 following approval by the PCT board. The PCT has been in discussion with the Department regarding the strengthening of its commissioning functions as part of its organisational recovery programme and the PCT is piloting the Framework for procuring External Support for Commissioners, which was available to PCTs from 31 May 2007.

Hospitals: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were admitted to hospitals in the Greater London area in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [164054]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the number of finished admission episodes for the London strategic health authority area for each of the last 10 years can be found in the following table.

Count of finished admission episodes where the strategic health authority of treatment was the five London SHA's: Data for national health service hospitals, England, 1996-97 to 2005-06

Data year	*Finished admission episodes*
2005-06	1,919,695
2004-05	1,804,291
2003-04	1,735,112
2002-03	1,638,353
2001-02	1,536,445
2000-01	1,507,249
1999-2000	1,526,984
1998-99	1,155,240
1997-98	1,092,064
1996-97	1,065,336

Notes:
1. Primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) data quality.
PCT and SHA data was added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of GP practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data. The SHA's used to define 'Greater London' were:
Q04 North West London Strategic HA
Q05 North Central London Strategic HA
Q06 North East London Strategic HA
Q07 South East London Strategic HA
Q08 South West London Strategic HA
2. Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
3. Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
4. Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for Health & Social Care

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in England have died of hospital acquired infections in each year since 1997. [163677]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 November 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people in England have died of hospital acquired infections in each year since 1997. (163677)

Death certificates record the place where a person dies, but not where any infections may have been acquired. It is not possible from the information on a death certificate to know whether an infection was acquired in the hospital or other place where a patient died. Patients are often transferred between hospitals, nursing homes and other establishments and may have acquired infections in a different place from where they died.

ONS does not receive information on 'healthcare-acquired infections' but special analyses of deaths involving two infections that are often associated with healthcare, MRSA and Clostridium difficile, are undertaken annually by ONS for England and Wales. The most recent figures were published in reports in Health Statistics Quarterly 33 in February of this year. This publication is available in the House of Commons library.

The table below provides data on the number of death certificates on which MRSA and Clostridium difficile were mentioned, from 1997 to 2005, the latest year for which figures are available.

Table 1: Number of death certificates where (a) methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus[1] and (b) Clostridium difficile[2] was mentioned, England and Wales, 1996-2005[3,4]

	(a) MRSA	(b) Clostridium difficile
1997	389	[4]
1998	412	[4]
1999	487	975
2000	669	[4]
2001	734	1,241
2002	800	1,428
2003	955	1,778
2004	1,168	2,247
2005	1,629	3,807

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Griffiths C, Lamagni TL, Crowcroft NS, Duckworth G and Rooney C (2004). Trends in MRSA in England and Wales: analysis of morbidity and mortality data for 1993-2002. Health Statistics Quarterly 21, 15-22.
[2] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics: Report: Deaths involving Clostridium difficile: England and Wales, 2001-2005. Health Statistics Quarterly 33, 71-75.
[3] Data are for deaths occurring in each calendar year.
[4] Deaths involving Clostridium difficile can only be identified using the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10). This has been used by ONS for coding mortality from 2001 onwards and in 1999 for a bridge coding study. Data are therefore not available for 1996-98 and 2000 when the Ninth Revision of the ICD was in use.

Hospitals: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to receive the recommendations of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel on hospitals in West Suffolk; and when he expects to make his final decision on changes to services in the West Suffolk area. [162585]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Independent Reconfiguration Panel will report back to the Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) on hospitals in West Suffolk by the end of December. Until the Independent Reconfiguration Panel's report is received it is not possible to speculate as to when a final decision will be made.

Lung Diseases: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the South Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust area have been diagnosed with *(a)* chronic bronchitis and emphysema and *(b)* pneumoconiosis on the most recent date for which figures are available. [163398]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

NHS Direct

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what regular update meetings the Service Design Division within his Department has with NHS Direct. [162743]

Mr. Bradshaw: Officials in the Service Design Division have quarterly performance review meetings with NHS Direct and ad hoc meetings as and when necessary.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how long on average callers to NHS Direct have had to wait to have their call answered in each of the last 12 months. [162745]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally but may be available directly from the Chairman of NHS Direct NHS trust. However, the Department does collect monthly data on the percentage of calls that NHS Direct answers within 60 seconds. Following a major transformation programme last year, NHS Direct have improved their performance and are meeting their target, set in June 2007, to answer 95 per cent. of calls within 60 seconds.

Calls answered within 60 seconds

	Percentage
2006	
October	73
November	69
December	62
2007	
January	64
February	55
March	60
April	76
May	87
June	98
July	96
August	96
September	95

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent staff have been employed to answer calls at NHS Direct in each financial year since the service was established. [162858]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table. Further information may be available directly from the Chairman of NHS Direct NHS Trust.

Date	*[1]Staff in Post*
2005	
August	1,727
September	1,746
October	1,718
November	1,722
December	1,697
2006	
January	1,674
February	1,667
March	1,647
April	1,638
May	1,592
June	1,553
July	1,500
August	1,481
September	1,447
October	1,409
November	1,382
December	1,342
2007	
January	1,338
February	1,478
March	1,589
April	1,514
May	1,443
June	1,432
July	1,408
August	1,389
September	1,401

[1]Total staff includes Health Advisors and Nurse Advisors.

NHS Treatment Centres: Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects his Department's review of the information it releases in relation to primary care trusts' contracts with independent sector treatment providers in Cornwall to be completed, as referred to in the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1026W, on health services: private sector. [162994]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The Department published contract information on wave 1 independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) on 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 79WS.

There is one contract with an independent sector provider in Cornwall. Information on the content is provided in the following table.

ISTC phase 1 contractual information (as at end of September 2007-08)

	Contractual information
Contract	GC4
Location	East Cornwall
Hospital name	Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre
Interim site commencement	1 October 2005
Full service commencement	1 January 2006
Total nominal contract value (£ million)	24.9
Contract utilisation to date (30 September 2007) (percentage)	56
Total contracted diagnostics	—
Total contracted procedures	26,495

ISTC phase 1 contractual information (as at end of September 2007-08)

	Contractual information
Total contracted procedures broken down by health resource group (HRG) chapter	
General surgery	215
Orthopaedics	40
Nervous system	—
Ophthalmology	7,148
ENT	—
Thoracic procedures	—
Digestive system	14,984
Urology	182
Gynaecology	3,926

Notes:

1. The total contract value represents the estimated nominal value at the time of signing, calculated in accordance with an estimate of the inflation index as specified in each contract.
2. The contracted activity is indicative only and can vary significantly from actual activity through substitution of higher or lower value procedures across the contract term.
3. Utilisation represents the percentage value of the contract which has been utilised from contract commencement to the end of September 2007-08.
4. Utilisation percentage may change following contract reconciliation which occurs at the end of each contract quarter and year.
5. All information provided has been based on the most up to date information at the time of submission.
6. The specialties are referenced to HRG chapter. "General Surgery" includes HRG chapters E, G, J, K, P, Q and S. HRG information is available at www.ic.nhs.uk/casemix
7. This information is expected to be updated on a quarterly basis.
8. The Department works with sponsors and providers to ensure optimum utilisation of the contracts. This includes changing the case mix to respond to local need and working with providers and primary care trusts to recover previous under-utilised activity where possible.
In addition to the work we are doing across all ISTCs to improve utilisation we are also taking the following action:
Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre
The strategic health authority (SHA) and the Department of Health (DH) are working closely to ensure Royal Cornwall Trust transfer waiting list patients to the ISTC to achieve an 18 week wait.
DH is agreeing a contract change to allow the ISTC to treat patients needing diagnostic endoscopies to achieve a two week wait in cancer referrals.
The provider (Capio) is targeting GPs with a marketing campaign to improve direct referrals.
9. If the hon. Member has any questions relating to this release of information please contact Lara Vodanovich at the Department of Health on 0207 633 7626.

NHS: Billing

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of invoices were paid on time in each year since 1997 by *(a)* NHS trusts, *(b)* primary care trusts, *(c)* ambulance trusts, *(d)* strategic health authorities, *(e)* other NHS organisations and *(f)* the NHS. [164615]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is provided in the following table:

Invoices Paid within the Better Payment Practice Code Target

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*Percentage 2006-07*
Strategic health authorities	84	85	84	86	84	80	82	85	87	82
Primary care trusts	n/a	n/a	n/a	82	82	83	85	85	84	83
National health service trusts	79	81	84	84	84	82	83	83	77	78
Ambulance trusts	n/a	n/a	86	89	87	88	88	85	86	82
All NHS	79	81	84	85	84	82	84	83	79	80

NHS: Dental Services

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the population in each primary care trust area has access to NHS dentistry; and how many dentists in each area accept NHS patients. [165091]

Ann Keen: Numbers of patients seen by a national health service dentist in the previous 24 months as a percentage of the population are available in Table C2 of Annex 3 of the NHS "Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report. Information is available for the 24 month periods ending 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007.

Numbers of dentists on open NHS contracts are available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the report. Information is shown as at 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007. In both tables

information is available for primary care trust and strategic health authority level.

The report is available in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607.

Published numbers are headcounts and do not differentiate between full and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Although we do not hold information on the number of dentists accepting new patients, a review of dentistry in London, published on 1 November by the Greater London Authority found that, out of 1,223 NHS dentists identified in the study, only 150 were not taking on any new patients.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was provided by strategic health authorities in 2006-07 as funding support to trusts in financial difficulties, broken down by trust; and on what basis such funding support was given; [163361]

(2) what cash income injections *(a)* his Department and *(b)* strategic health authorities provided to trusts in financial difficulties in each of the last three years; [163362]

(3) what plans his Department has to provide cash income injections for trusts in financial difficulties. [163390]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information has been placed in the Library.

Figures given are:

2004-05 planned support from NHS Bank and internally generated from within the health economy

2005-06 planned support from NHS Bank and internally generated from within health economy

2006-07 Resource Account and Budgeting reversals

2006-07 loans given to national health service trusts

2006-07 additional cash limits given to primary care trusts.

From 2006-07, we have introduced greater transparency into the NHS financial system, not least by ending the practice of moving money around the NHS. We have abolished brokerage and planned support, both of which may, in the past, have masked deficits in individual organisations. Whilst in the short term this will have exposed some financial problems in the health care system, our action also means that organisations now have to address these. Strategic health authorities have no right to offer planned support any longer so there are no plans to offer those trusts in financial difficulties any further income injections.

At the end of 2006-07 NHS trusts were given back RAB income deductions made in 2006-07 as a result of overspending in 2005-06.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the underlying demand cost pressure on the NHS in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* percentage terms results from achieving and sustaining the 18 week referral to treatment waiting time target. [163372]

Mr. Bradshaw: Allocations to primary care trusts provide them with funding to deliver all local and national priorities. The cost of delivering the maximum 18 week general practitioners referral to treatment waiting target by December 2008 will depend on local decisions on how to implement this and other priorities.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the per capita funding of each NHS trust in England was in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [164567]

Mr. Bradshaw: Revenue allocations are made directly to primary care trusts (PCTs), not national health service trusts. A table showing the funds per capita for each PCT in England for 2006-07 is available in the Library. Revenue allocations to NHS organisations in Wales are a matter for the National Assembly for Wales.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what he expects the underspend on the NHS to be in the North West region in the 2007-08 financial year. [165179]

Ann Keen: At quarter 1, 2007-08, the North West strategic health authority economy is forecasting a financial year end surplus of £170 million.

Orthopaedics: Waiting Lists

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for an appointment with *(a)* a knee consultant and *(b)* a urologist for (i) patients of Wirral Hospital Trust, (ii) patients in Merseyside and (iii) nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [164668]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* The information requested has been set out in the following tables.

Average Median Time of Patients Still Waiting for a 1st Out-patient Appointment in the Trauma and Orthopaedic Specialty

Area	*Weeks*
Wirral NHS Trust	3.01
North West	2.62
England	3.09

Notes:
1. The North West is the nearest region we can measure to the Merseyside region.
2. Trauma and orthopaedic surgeons carry out knee surgery.

Source:
Department of Health QM08 and QM08R.

Average Median Time of Patients Still Waiting for a 1st Outpatient Appointment in the Urology Specialty

Area	*Weeks*
Wirral NHS Trust	2.97
North West	2.48
England	2.72

Note:
The North West is the nearest region we can measure to the Merseyside region.

Source:
Department of Health QM08 and QM08R.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for *(a)* a knee operation and *(b)* a hysterectomy for (i) patients of Wirral hospital trust, (ii) patients in Merseyside and (iii) nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [164669]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* The information requested is supplied in the following table.

Operation description	*Wirral hospital NHS trust Median time waited (in days)*	*Cheshire and Merseyside strategic health authority of residence Median time waited (in days)*	*England Median time waited (in days)*
Knee operation	162	164	168
Hysterectomy	59	57	66

Note:

Data provided are for mean and median "time waited" (in days) rather than "waiting times" where the main operation was a knee operation or hysterectomy (see footnotes for definitions).

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES)

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) can only provide counts for "time waited" for all finished admissions within a given period. It is important to note that HES "time waited" figures are different to published waiting list statistics which count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. This elapsed time does not include any wait for referral to a hospital consultant. The data provided are only for elective admissions into hospital for the selected operation from a waiting list or booked elective admissions. The attached results exclude planned elective admissions and unlike published waiting list statistics are not adjusted for self-deferrals (e.g. if a patient deferred an operation as they were on holiday) or periods of medical/social suspension (please see footnotes for definitions of elective admissions from a waiting list, elective booked admissions and planned elective admissions). Note that finished admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Operational Classification of Interventions and Procedures Version 4.2. (OPSC 4.2)

Knee Operation:

W40: Total Prosthetic replacement of knee joint using cement
W41: Total prosthetic replacement of knee joint not using cement
W42: Other total prosthetic replacement of knee joint

Hysterectomy:

Q07.1 Abdominal hysterocolpectomy and excision of periuterine tissue
Q07.2 Abdominal hysterectomy and excision of periuterine tissue
Q07.3 Abdominal hysterocolpectomy nec
Q07.4 Total abdominal hysterectomy nec
Q07.5 Subtotal abdominal hysterectomy
Q07.8 Other specified abdominal excision of uterus
Q07.9 Unspecified abdominal excision of uterus
Q08.1 Vaginal hysterocolpectomy and excision of periuterine tissue
Q08.2 Vaginal hysterectomy and excision of periuterine tissue NEC
Q08.3 Vaginal hysterocolpectomy nec
Q08.8 Other specified vaginal excision of uterus
Q08.9 Unspecified vaginal excision of uterus
R25.1 Caesarean hysterectomy

Data Quality

HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Department liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Elective admissions

An admission is elective if the patient has been waiting for treatment. There are three types of elective admissions. The above time waited data exclude planned elective admissions:

Elective admissions from a waiting list

Most elective admissions are from a waiting list, where the patient has been waiting for a hospital resource e.g. in this case a knee operation or hysterectomy.

Elective booked admissions

An increasing number of elective admissions are booked, where the patient was given a date at the time the decision to admit was made, determined mainly on the grounds of resource availability.

Planned elective admissions

A smaller group waits for clinical reasons, where the consultant has advised that the patient should return at an appropriate point when the body has had time for nature to take its course. For example, a patient whose broken leg was mended by means of a steel pin would return to hospital a few weeks later to have a pin removed. Or a cancer sufferer is invited for radiotherapy treatment in a sequence of measured doses, with necessary gaps between sessions for recovery and stabilisation.

Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Main Operation

The main operation is the first recorded operation in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main operation when looking at admission details, eg. time waited, but the figures for "all operations count of episodes" give a more complete count of episodes with an operation.

Time Waited

Time waited statistics from HES are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.

Ungrossed Data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Primary Care Trusts: Finance

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding per capita was given to each primary care trust in England in 2006-07; and what the average level was of per capita funding for primary care trusts. [163088]

Mr. Bradshaw: A table showing the funds per capita for each primary care trust in England and the England average for 2006-07 is available in the Library.

Screening: Private Sector

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of diagnostic scans in the NHS were carried out by private healthcare companies in the last year for which figures are available. [163403]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold the requested data in this format.

The Department does collect data on the volume of some diagnostic scans carried out in the national health service. Data for the number of echocardiography, computer tomography (CT), DEXA scan, barium enema, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and non-obstetric ultrasound (NOU) carried out in the national health service between September 2006 and August 2007 are shown in the following table.

Diagnostic test	*Total diagnostic activity (this includes planned activity)*
MRI	1,196,392
CT	2,305,584
NOU	3,920,621
Barium enema	166,986
DEXA Scan	224,467
Cardiology - echocardiography	774,033

Source:
Department of Health Monthly Diagnostics

Through the Independent Sector Treatment Centres (ISTC) programme, which is centrally led by the Department's Commercial Directorate, over 372,000 diagnostic episodes have been delivered to NHS patients at the end of September 2007. The above figure includes diagnostic episodes delivered to NHS patients through operational Wave 1 and Phase 2 schemes and the MRI fast-track contract.

It is not possible to identify the volume of diagnostic scans carried out by private healthcare companies purchased locally by the NHS.

West Hertfordshire Acute Hospital Trust: Waiting Lists

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were cancelled at West Hertfordshire Acute Hospital Trust within *(a)* seven days and *(b)* 24 hours of the appointment time in each year since 1997. [164112]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the number of last minute cancelled operations for non clinical reasons at West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust from 2001-02 to 2006-07 (which are the latest data available).

	Number of last minute cancelled operations for non clinical reasons
2001-02	562
2002-03	244
2003-04	815
2004-05	666
2005-06	621
2006-07	929

Notes:
1. Data were collected at health authority level only prior to 2001-02. Trust level data were collected from 2001-02 onwards.
2. A last minute cancellation is one that occurs on the day the patient was due to arrive, after they have arrived in hospital or on the day of their operation.
3. Some common non-clinical reasons for cancellations by the hospital include: ward beds unavailable; surgeon unavailable; emergency case needing theatre; theatre list over-ran; equipment failure; admin error; anaesthetist unavailable; theatre staff unavailable; and critical care bed unavailable.

Source:
Department of Health dataset QMCO

West Herts NHS Hospital Trust: Consultants

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes there were at West Herts NHS Hospital Trust *(a)* in each specialty and *(b)* in total in each year since 1996-97. [166085]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested can be found in the following tables.

Count of finished consultant episodes (FCE) for West Herts NHS Hospital Trust (RWG) by main speciality for years 2005-06 to 2000-01: NHS hospitals England

		FCE					
Main speciality code	*Main speciality*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*
&	Unknown	—	*	—	16	97	1,243
100	General Surgery	9,697	9,900	9,668	9,195	8,838	9,023
101	Urology	4,532	4,532	4,658	4,481	4,264	4,180
110	Trauma & Orthopaedics	7,390	7,246	7,260	7,445	7,432	6,765
120	Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	1,236	1,090	1,064	918	1,246	1,229
130	Ophthalmology	2,074	1,841	1,977	1,173	1,274	1,692
140	Oral Surgery	613	706	800	627	521	962
141	Restorative dentistry (oral surgery)	—	—	—	*	—	—
143	Orthodontics	—	—	—	—	—	*
160	Plastic Surgery	8,018	7,712	7,912	7,178	6,679	6,624

Count of finished consultant episodes (FCE) for West Herts NHS Hospital Trust (RWG) by main speciality for years 2005-06 to 2000-01: NHS hospitals England

		FCE					
Main speciality code	*Main speciality*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*
170	Cardiothoracic Surgery	—	—	—	—	—	38
180	Accident & Emergency (A&E)	4,800	3,334	541	394	299	237
190	Anaesthetics	506	442	554	448	464	467
191	Pain Management	—	—	*	—	—	—
300	General Medicine	9,313	8,914	8,633	9,469	9,916	8,547
301	Gastroenterology	5,872	5,767	5,631	5,205	5,498	5,052
302	Endocrinology	129	200	282	389	676	1,007
303	Clinical Haematology	1,928	2,583	2,884	2,761	2,071	892
314	Rehabilitation	—	—	—	*	—	134
315	Palliative Medicine	—	331	351	355	400	343
320	Cardiology	3,691	3,308	2,073	1,416	1,490	1,706
330	Dermatology	252	551	564	675	850	911
340	Thoracic Medicine	1,714	1,225	1,362	1,305	1,324	1,461
360	Genitourinary Medicine	—	*	—	—	—	—
361	Nephrology	20	46	16	*	—	*
370	Medical Oncology	292	748	707	505	491	538
400	Neurology	17	17	15	20	23	35
410	Rheumatology	816	502	393	172	183	89
420	Paediatrics	5,430	4,998	5,293	4,973	0	2,405
430	Geriatric Medicine	7,313	7,501	6,819	5,930	4,751	4,995
501	Obstetrics	8,619	8,794	8,385	7,648	8,057	6,325
502	Gynaecology	4,379	4,487	4,616	4,699	5,085	5,495
700	Learning Disability (previously MH)	—	*	*	*	—	—
713	Psychotherapy	—	—	*	—	—	—
800	Clinical Oncology (previously Radiotherapy)	820	4,768	4,688	4,606	5,138	5,202
823	Haematology	—	—	—	—	181	1,149
830	Immunopathology	138	112	96	107	73	15
	Total	89,579	91,662	87,245	82,118	77,321	78,761

Count of finished consultant episodes for St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust (RPW) and Mount Vernon and Watford NHS Trust (RQL) by main speciality for years 1999-2000 to 1996-97. NHS Hospitals England

		FCE							
		1999-2000		*1998-99*		*1997-98*		*1996-97*	
Report title Main Speciality code	*Main speciality*	*RPW*	*RQL*	*RPW*	*RQL*	*RPW*	*RQL*	*RPW*	*RQL*
&	Not known	*	296	—	268	—	344	7	184
100	General surgery	4,341	4,607	3,674	5,172	4,215	5,167	4,557	5,829
101	Urology	2,119	2,073	1,516	2,526	1,506	2,810	1,460	2,965
110	Trauma and orthopaedics	3,360	3,133	2,886	3,268	2,968	3,219	3,077	4,136
120	ENT	1,249	—	1,082	—	1,171	—	1,136	—
130	Ophthalmology	*	1,176	16	861	116	760	118	1,240
140	Oral surgery	38	2,387	32	2,715	53	2,904	149	3,160
143	Orthodontics	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—
160	Plastic surgery	143	5,985	151	5,595	208	6,649	237	5,764
180	Accident and emergency	318	—	341	—	376	—	268	—
190	Anaesthetics	122	209	116	368	102	343	173	300
300	General medicine	—	9,703	*	10,612	31	9,922	727	9,729
301	Gastroenterology	4,050	146	3,721	918	3,743	1,144	2,777	929
302	Endocrinology	1,466	—	1,349	—	1,157	—	833	—
303	Haematology (clinical)	—	456	—	690	—	1,044	—	691
315	Palliative medicine	—	395	—	353	—	449	—	387
320	Cardiology	1,473	—	1,416	—	1,406	—	1,153	—
330	Dermatology	846	42	713	33	882	76	856	73
340	Thoracic medicine	1,403	—	1,067	9	1,222	*	1,138	—

Count of finished consultant episodes for St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust (RPW) and Mount Vernon and Watford NHS Trust (RQL) by main speciality for years 1999-2000 to 1996-97. NHS Hospitals England

		FCE							
		1999-2000		1998-99		1997-98		1996-97	
Report title Main Speciality code	Main speciality	RPW	RQL	RPW	RQL	RPW	RQL	RPW	RQL
361	Nephrology	*	—	—	—	*	—	—	—
370	Medical oncology	—	43	—	—	—	—	—	—
400	Neurology	34	10	23	22	*	*	8	10
410	Rheumatology	45	—	33	170	28	404	50	357
420	Paediatrics	5,106	3,217	4,976	6,668	5,537	7,272	5,726	6,367
430	Geriatric medicine	4,409	1,749	4,461	1,910	4,268	2,351	3,637	2,152
501	Obstet for pats using a hosp bed	5,503	3,640	5,156	3,566	5,352	4,384	5,192	3,822
502	Gynaecology	2,260	2,752	1,946	2,460	2,374	2,669	2,943	2,992
800	Radiotherapy	985	4,475	956	5,021	882	4,761	362	3,903
823	Haematology	1,223	—	770	—	1,159	—	1,077	—
	Total	40,496	46,494	36,401	53,205	38,756	56,678	37,661	54,990
	Combined total		86,990		89,606		95,434		92,651

Notes:

1. Data Quality

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time some shortcomings remain.

2. Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

3. FCE

An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

4. Specialty

Care is needed when analysing HES data by specialty, or by groups of specialties (such as Acute). Trusts have different ways of managing specialties and attributing codes so it is better to analyse by specific diagnoses, operations or other recorded information. Trusts may change the way they manage speciality codes through time. Speciality code 420—For the period 2001/02 no data was received from the trust for this speciality. This has been investigated with the trust but no conclusive cause has been found.

5. Ungrossed Data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

6. Low Numbers

Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with an "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional smallest number have been suppressed in order to protect.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

West Herts NHS Hospital Trust: Waiting Lists

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times for *(a)* elective in-patient admissions and *(b)* first out-patient appointments were in each specialty at West Herts NHS Hospital Trust in each year since 1996-97. [166086]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 19 November 2007

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which Minister is leading his Department's review of the academies programme; on what date the review was commissioned; which officials in his Department are carrying out the review; what the involvement in the review is of the No. 10 Downing Street Policy Unit; and if he will make a statement; [165167]

(2) on what date his Department will complete its review of the academies programme; and if he will make a statement; [165168]

(3) which *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* other individuals and outside bodies attended the academies seminar on 1 November 2007; and if he will make a statement. [165169]

Jim Knight: The review of the academies programme was agreed on 12 September 2007 at a routine meeting between the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (PMDU) chaired by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State asked PMDU officials to work with Treasury and DCSF officials in the Academies Group of the Department on the review, which will be completed before the end of the year.

The seminar on 1 November was attended by a number of officials and a range of stakeholders in the academies programme. The Department considers release of the names and organisations of those taking part in the seminar would have an inhibiting effect on the free and frank discussions required in policy reviews and would disrupt our ability to meet our wider objectives.

PMDU reviews are confidential advice to Ministers; we do not disclose the recommendations or publish the report.

Academies: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what start-up revenue funding each academy school was allocated in its first 12 months of operation; and if he will make a statement. [166109]

Jim Knight: Under their funding agreements, academies are entitled to two types of start-up grant. Both are payable in the first year of operation, but may continue at a lower rate in subsequent years depending on the speed at which the academy concerned builds up towards its full capacity.

The first type of start-up grant is for books, materials, software and educational equipment. It is calculated on a formulaic basis for all academies and the amount payable depends mainly on pupil numbers, although the rates used vary slightly according to whether there is a predecessor school, and whether the academy has a sixth form. The first academic year's allocation is paid in three monthly instalments, from September to November. Subsequent years' grants, if payable at all, are always at a significantly lower level.

The second type of grant has two elements. One is intended to compensate for the diseconomies of scale incurred on senior and middle management costs while an academy is still significantly below capacity. It is payable until the academy is 90 per cent. full. Up to the academic year 2007/08 it has been paid following assessment of bids, but from 2008/09 will be paid on a formulaic basis derived from the size of the academy. The other element is normally payable only in the first year and relates to transitional costs such as senior staff training and other costs arising from conversion. Academies bid for most of these although, again, for certain items a formulaic approach will be used from 2008/09.

Academies: Greater Manchester

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many academies sponsored by the local authority *(a)* exist and *(b)* are planned in Manchester; and if he will make a statement. [163293]

Jim Knight: Manchester city council is acting as co-sponsor for seven academy projects. The first of these are projected to open in September 2009.

Academies: Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many permanent exclusions were made by each academy in the 2006-07 school year; how many such exclusions were made in the last full year of each academy's predecessor school; and if he will make a statement. [166027]

Jim Knight: Permanent exclusions data for 2006/07 are not yet available. They are expected to be published in June 2008.

Permanent exclusions reported by an academy in its first year refer only to those exclusions from the academy. Exclusions from the predecessor school are not included, even if these exclusions occurred during the reporting period in which the academy was established. Such exclusions would be attributed to the predecessor school.

Academies: School Day

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which academy schools have extended the length of the school day since their establishment; what the new hours are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [166108]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect these data.

Assessments: Wales

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has carried out an assessment of the effects of abolishing key stage tests in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [166038]

Jim Knight: No. The assessment of pupils in Welsh schools is a matter for the Welsh Assembly. Tests for pupils in key stages 2 and 3 have, and will continue to have, an important place in our strategy for further raising standards in schools across England.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether an objective of the Building Schools for the future programme is to amalgamate existing schools into new larger schools; and if he will make a statement. [166046]

Jim Knight: It is not an objective of Building Schools for the Future to consolidate existing schools into new larger schools. Matters of school organisation including the size of schools are decided locally. There are clear statutory procedures for proposals to open, close or alter schools, which include local consultation. Building Schools for the Future provides an excellent opportunity for authorities to consider how best to deliver education in their area, including how to raise standards and to provide greater choice and diversity of provision.

Children: Poverty

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to ensure child poverty targets are met. [164415]

Beverley Hughes: To ensure that the target of halving child poverty is met the Government have recently published a Delivery Agreement (DA), underpinning the Child Poverty Public Service Agreement (PSA), which sets out all of the key policy activities to deliver the 2010 target. The Government have also published other key PSA DAs aimed at improving outcomes for children and young people and tackling the effects of poverty—through narrowing the gap in educational achievement, raising educational attainment, improving children's health and well-being, increasing the number of young people on the path to success, and improving the safeguarding of children. The achievement of these public service agreements will all contribute towards meeting the 2020 target of eradicating child poverty.

The Government are currently putting in place governance arrangements at both Ministerial Cabinet Committee level and official levels to meet the 2010 and 2020 child poverty targets.

In addition, as part of the Machinery of Government changes (June), the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has also recently established a new Child Poverty Unit, announced on 29 October by Peter Main, which has brought together policy and analytical officials from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DSCF) to co-ordinate and develop child poverty policy.

Class Sizes: Easington

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the ratio is of pupils to teachers in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Easington constituency. [166031]

Jim Knight: In January 2007, the latest information available, the within school ratio of pupils to teachers (PTR) for primary and secondary schools in Easington constituency were 22.4 and 16.7 respectively. The equivalent figures for England were 21.8 and 16.5.

The information provided is from the DCSF School Census. The within school PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total full-time equivalent number of teachers regularly employed in schools.

Classroom Assistants

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued to schools on the roles and responsibilities of *(a)* teaching assistants and *(b)* technicians working in schools. [164425]

Jim Knight: This Department has not issued guidance to schools on the roles and responsibilities of these categories of school staff.

Classroom Assistants: Qualifications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of teaching assistants working in schools have a *(a)* level one, *(b)* level two and *(c)* level three qualification as their highest qualification. [164424]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available in the form requested but the Deployment and Impact of Support Staff in Schools Survey, a DCSF survey which took place in 2006, did collect some information on the qualifications of support staff. This information is given in the following table.

Levels of qualification for support staff[1] in service in England, 2006

	Support staff category													
	Teaching assistant equivalent[2]		*Pupil welfare*		*Technician*		*Other pupil support*		*Facilities*		*Administration*		*Site*	
Qualifications	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*
None	11	2	10	4	3	1	57	17	73	36	10	2	70	36
GCSE D-G	57	12	24	9	26	9	37	11	16	8	28	6	11	6
GCSE A*-C	132	27	90	34	72	26	65	20	20	10	101	21	21	11

Levels of qualification for support staff[1] in service in England, 2006

	Support staff category													
	Teaching assistant equivalent[2]		*Pupil welfare*		*Technician*		*Other pupil support*		*Facilities*		*Administration*		*Site*	
Qualifications	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*	*no.*	*%*
CSE	230	46	85	32	68	25	125	38	71	35	17	36	70	36
O Level	316	64	149	57	177	64	145	44	63	31	360	76	48	25
A/AS Level	125	25	96	37	112	41	56	17	16	8	140	29	14	7
Cert Ed	48	10	24	9	25	9	24	7	10	5	18	4	10	5
Foundation degree	19	4	9	3	4	1	5	2	1	1	11	23	1	1
Degree	51	10	73	28	85	31	26	8	3	2	62	13	7	4
Higher degree	13	3	32	12	18	7	9	3	3	2	17	4	2	1

[1] Respondents to the survey were asked to select all qualifications held and therefore may have selected more than one category of qualification.
[2] Teaching assistant equivalent support staff includes Higher Level TAs, LAs (SEN pupils), Nursery Nurses, Therapists and TAs in primary, secondary or special schools.
Source:
DCSF sample survey

Education Maintenance Allowance

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect of education maintenance allowance payments on achievement by students receiving them. [165080]

Jim Knight: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for the operation of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) Scheme. An analysis of the impact of EMA on participation and attainment has been commissioned by the LSC and the results of this analysis are due to be published in November 2007. A copy of these reports, with a summary of key findings, will be placed in the House Library when they are published.

Education: Climate Change

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will provide grants for the recruitment of external experts to teach climate change science and sustainability in primary and secondary schools. [163342]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* We want all schools to become Sustainable Schools by 2020. The Sustainable Schools Framework and self evaluation tool have been designed, following wide consultation, to help senior managers, teachers and pupils adopt a whole school approach so that schools' commitment to sustainability is demonstrated by the way the buildings and grounds are managed, their relationships with the local community and through the curriculum. To become sustainable, schools need to develop their own expertise, drawing on external support where they identify it is needed.

Expert organisations, such as the Met Office, the Association of Science Education and the Royal Geographical Society already provide support and resources for teachers. Science Learning Centres provide training for both primary and secondary teachers in sustainability and the science of climate change. There are many other sources of support including businesses, local authorities and non-governmental organisations. We have no plans to provide grants for external experts to teach climate change and sustainability in schools.

Education: Isle of Wight

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what direction has been given to the Isle of Wight council in relation to proposed structural changes to the educational system on the island; [164465]

(2) what changes are *(a)* planned and *(b)* proposed for (i) high schools, (ii) middle schools, (iii) primary schools and (iv) nursery schools on the Isle of Wight. [164673]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* The Secretary of State has not issued a direction to the Isle of Wight in relation to the structure of schools within the local authority's area.

School place planning is a local matter and it is for the local authority to work with local stakeholders to determine whether structural changes should be proposed to the organisation of schools. Where changes are proposed, a statutory process must be followed which provides for consultation with those affected; formal publication of a notice in a local newspaper and other places where those affected might see it; and an opportunity for people to submit comments and objections. Most decisions will be taken by the local authority with some explicit powers of appeal to the schools adjudicator.

Education: Overseas Students

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether EU citizens from other member states aged between 16 and 18 years old resident in England will have to remain in education or training until the age of 18 years old under the terms of the proposed Education and Skills Bill; and if he will make a statement. [165146]

Jim Knight: All young people resident in England would be subject to the requirement to remain in education and training until their 18th birthday or completion of a level 3 programme, whichever is the earlier. This would include 16 and 17-year-olds resident in England who are citizens of other countries.

Education: Standards

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what results he expects his Department's pursuit of the five outcomes for children and young people to age 19 to have had by 2010 on *(a)* all pupils in education and *(b)* those pupils at Key Stage 4 in that year in schools which achieved (i) 70 per cent. or above five A*-C grades and (ii) 62 per cent. five A*-C grades including English and mathematics in the latest period for which figures are available. [165568]

Jim Knight: Pupil performance and well-being go hand in hand, and doing well in education is the most effective route for young people out of poverty and disaffection. We introduced the Every Child Matters agenda to give every child the best start in life so they realise their potential because this is crucial to every child's life chances and to society's well-being. Educational attainment is at the very heart of Every Child Matters. It is a key priority which goes hand in hand with a child's well-being.

We know that there are benefits to the individual, the country and society from the attainment of qualifications. Individuals who achieve a level 2 qualification, equivalent to five or more GCSEs at A*-C, earn on average around £100,000 more over their lifetime than those who leave learning with qualifications below level 2. In addition to higher wages, better qualified individuals enjoy improved employment prospects, are more likely to get promoted and undertake further learning in the future. There are also wider benefits such as better health and improved social skills. Higher skill levels lead to increased productivity for businesses and those who achieve qualifications are less likely to experience teenage pregnancy, be involved in crime or behave antisocially. That is why, by 2010-11, we expect 82 per cent. of 19 year-olds to achieve a level 2 qualification.

We know too that approximately 75 per cent. of young people who have had a positive experience at school, and have achieved level 2 by the age of 16, go on to attain level 3 qualifications. And, of those young people who obtain 5 A*-C GCSEs in year 11, approximately 52 per cent. go on to degree level study. We want more young people to gain higher level skills and have the opportunity to progress to higher education if they want to. To help deliver this ambition we have set a target of 54 per cent. of 19 year-olds to achieve a level 3 qualification by 2010-11 in CSR07.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether the new independent qualification regulator will be empowered to carry out sampling tests of pupils on a random basis to independently verify changes in educational standards; and if he will make a statement; [166039]

(2) on what date he plans to publish the consultation documentation on the future of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. [166042]

Jim Knight: We plan to publish a consultation paper setting out our proposals for the future of qualifications regulation and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority around the turn of the year. This will include proposals for the powers of the new independent regulator of qualifications and tests. My right hon. friend the Secretary of State will make a statement to the House to announce the start of the consultation.

Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether people aged 16 to 18 years in full-time education studying in *(a)* school sixth forms, *(b)* sixth form colleges, *(c)* further education colleges and *(d)* academies, whose parents fulfil the qualifying criteria in other respects, are entitled to free lunches; and if he will make a statement. [163222]

Jim Knight: Where parents fulfil the qualifying criteria, local authorities or school governing bodies have a duty to provide free school meals to children who are registered pupils at schools. This includes those in school sixth forms, and academies, but not those attending sixth form or further education colleges. We have no plans to change the criteria for free school meals.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of pupils were entitled to free school meals in each school in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement; [165753]

(2) what proportion of pupils had special educational needs in each school in England in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [165754]

Jim Knight: The available information has been placed in the Library. This contains figures for the current year, figures for earlier years cannot be provided within the time scale.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Young Offenders

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of 16-year-olds who had been in custody for more than one year were entered for GCSE examinations in each year since 2001; [165164]

(2) what proportion of 16-year-olds in custody gained five A* to Cs at GCSE in each year since 2001. [165165]

Jim Knight: The information required to answer the question is not held centrally.

Head Teachers: Parenting Orders

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress his Department has made on granting new powers to head teachers to apply to courts for parenting orders. [164756]

Jim Knight: The provisions in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to allow school governing bodies to apply to courts for parenting orders following either exclusion, or serious misbehaviour by pupils which would warrant exclusion if continued, came into force on 1 September 2007.

LEAs: Cost-effectiveness

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list local education authorities in England ranked in order of value for money by correlating guaranteed per pupil funding for 2006 with the percentage of pupils attaining five or more GCSEs at grade A* to C including English and mathematics in 2006. [165054]

Jim Knight: The following table shows local authorities ranked, where 1 is the highest, by the percentage of pupils achieving 5+A*-C at GCSE and equivalent (including English and mathematics) in academic year 2005/06 and by funding per pupil in financial year 2005-06.

A correlation of funding and attainment would not provide a meaningful measure of value for money. Those local authorities with higher levels of deprivation and other needs receive higher levels of funding per pupil to deliver the additional support required to raise standards and narrow the attainment gap between these groups of pupils and their peers. The factors which attract higher levels of funding are also those which are known to be associated with lower levels of attainment.

Local authority	*Percentage of pupils achieving level 2 threshold including English and mathematics in 2005/06*	*Rank of percentage achieving level 2 threshold including English and mathematics*	*Funding per pupil in 2005-06 (£)*	*Rank of funding per pupil 2005-06*
Barking and Dagenham	37.7	112	4,979	22
Barnet	55.9	8	4,903	25
Barnsley	30.7	140	4,325	90
Bath and North East Somerset	52.0	19	4,051	134
Bedfordshire	44.1	67	4,263	99
Bexley	50.3	25	4,401	69
Birmingham	40.8	90	4,882	28
Blackburn with Darwen	38.6	105	4,742	34
Blackpool	34.2	129	4,350	82
Bolton	38.0	109	4,354	79
Bournemouth	43.6	72	4,076	129
Bracknell Forest	47.2	49	4,352	80
Bradford	34.0	130	4,668	39
Brent	48.9	35	5,603	15
Brighton and Hove	41.8	83	4,456	61
Bristol, City of	30.4	141	4,528	53
Bromley	54.2	12	4,478	59
Buckinghamshire	59.1	2	4,331	87
Bury	47.9	44	4,145	118
Calderdale	43.8	71	4,335	86
Cambridgeshire	50.2	27	4,121	121
Camden	45.7	57	6,462	6
Cheshire	50.6	23	4,035	138
Cornwall	43.9	70	4,175	113
Coventry	37.8	111	4,505	55
Croydon	42.7	79	4,752	33
Cumbria	45.3	60	4,272	96
Darlington	44.7	63	4,272	95
Derby	42.2	81	4,348	83
Derbyshire	45.5	58	4,050	135
Devon	46.2	54	4,121	122
Doncaster	34.8	125	4,443	63
Dorset	50.0	30	4,052	133
Dudley	43.0	75	4,107	124
Durham	40.4	95	4,365	77
Ealing	48.8	37	5,372	16
East Riding of Yorkshire	49.8	32	4,043	136
East Sussex	41.3	87	4,330	89
Enfield	43.0	75	4,928	23
Essex	45.2	61	4,277	93
Gateshead	45.0	62	4,483	58
Gloucestershire	53.8	13	4,066	130
Greenwich	31.4	139	6,032	11
Hackney	36.7	118	6,845	2
Halton	33.3	135	4,697	37
Hammersmith and Fulham	49.0	34	6,372	8
Hampshire	50.2	27	4,032	139
Haringey	34.3	128	5,743	13
Harrow	53.4	16	4,788	31
Hartlepool	37.5	113	4,553	51
Havering	54.6	10	4,370	76
Herefordshire	48.2	42	4,268	97
Hertfordshire	53.7	14	4,233	105
Hillingdon	43.5	73	4,791	30
Hounslow	50.9	22	5,219	18
Isle of Wight	36.8	117	4,433	66
Islington	32.8	137	6,603	4
Kensington and Chelsea	54.3	11	6,565	5
Kent	46.8	50	4,310	91
Kingston upon Hull, City of	25.9	148	4,581	46
Kingston upon Thames	58.6	4	4,602	44
Kirklees	40.8	90	4,377	73
Knowsley	26.1	147	4,897	27
Lambeth	41.7	85	6,607	3
Lancashire	45.9	55	4,202	111
Leeds	40.4	95	4,341	85
Leicester	33.5	133	4,736	35
Leicestershire	46.7	51	3,883	148
Lewisham	40.8	90	6,205	10
Lincolnshire	48.6	39	4,226	107
Liverpool	35.5	121	4,901	26
Luton	36.5	119	4,727	36
Manchester	29.0	145	5,122	20
Medway	44.0	68	4,215	109
Merton	39.5	100	4,865	29
Middlesbrough	30.3	142	4,925	24
Milton Keynes	38.7	103	4,484	57
Newcastle upon Tyne	33.5	133	4,672	38
Newham	41.1	89	5,631	14
Norfolk	44.5	64	4,214	110

Local authority	Percentage of pupils achieving level 2 threshold including English and mathematics in 2005/06	Rank of percentage achieving level 2 threshold including English and mathematics	Funding per pupil in 2005-06 (£)	Rank of funding per pupil 2005-06
North East Lincolnshire	35.4	122	4,343	84
North Lincolnshire	38.5	106	4,266	98
North Somerset	47.4	48	4,085	126
North Tyneside	47.9	44	4,276	94
North Yorkshire	53.5	15	4,147	117
Northamptonshire	42.1	82	4,125	120
Northumberland	48.9	35	4,291	92
Nottingham	28.5	146	4,996	21
Nottinghamshire	40.1	97	4,037	137
Oldham	35.4	122	4,555	50
Oxfordshire	47.5	47	4,259	100
Peterborough	39.4	102	4,556	49
Plymouth	42.5	80	4,223	108
Poole	52.0	19	3,991	142
Portsmouth	29.2	144	4,388	71
Reading	46.5	52	4,753	32
Redbridge	59.1	2	4,640	41
Redcar and Cleveland	40.1	97	4,464	60
Richmond upon Thames	49.7	33	4,355	78
Rochdale	37.1	115	4,627	42
Rotherham	37.5	113	4,350	81
Rutland	56.1	7	4,175	112
Salford	32.0	138	4,622	43
Sandwell	29.7	143	4,592	45
Sefton	44.0	68	4,330	88
Sheffield	37.1	115	4,374	75
Shropshire	50.3	25	4,158	115
Slough	55.2	9	5,147	19
Solihull	50.5	24	3,990	143
Somerset	44.5	64	4,065	131
South Gloucestershire	44.4	66	3,947	146
South Tyneside	39.5	100	4,578	47
Southampton	36.2	120	4,521	54
Southend-on-Sea	49.9	31	4,406	68
Southwark	34.4	127	6,378	7
St. Helens	38.0	109	4,386	72
Staffordshire	42.8	78	3,963	145
Stockport	50.1	29	3,967	144
Stockton-on-Tees	41.2	88	4,375	74
Stoke-on-Trent	33.3	135	4,549	52
Suffolk	45.9	55	4,057	132
Sunderland	33.9	132	4,456	62
Surrey	52.7	18	4,241	103
Sutton	63.1	1	4,557	48
Swindon	40.7	93	4,079	128
Tameside	38.5	106	4,249	101
Telford and Wrekin	39.6	99	4,240	104
Thurrock	38.5	106	4,491	56
Torbay	45.5	58	4,161	114
Tower Hamlets	34.0	130	6,937	1
Trafford	57.0	6	4,119	123
Wakefield	42.9	77	4,226	106
Walsall	34.9	124	4,398	70
Waltham Forest	38.7	103	5,272	17
Wandsworth	41.8	83	5,887	12
Warrington	48.6	39	3,928	147
Warwickshire	48.0	43	4,081	127
West Berkshire	51.6	21	4,423	67
West Sussex	47.7	46	4,144	119
Westminster	40.6	94	6,212	9
Wigan	41.7	85	4,149	116
Wiltshire	48.5	41	4,102	125
Windsor and Maidenhead	52.8	17	4,439	64
Wirral	46.3	53	4,434	65
Wokingham	57.7	5	4,245	102
Wolverhampton	34.7	126	4,653	40
Worcestershire	43.1	74	3,994	141
York	48.8	37	4,003	140

Notes:

1. Price Base: Real terms at 2006-07 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 26 September 2007.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of education formula spending (EFS) settlements and include the pensions transfer to EFS and the Learning and Skills Council.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged three to 19 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.
5. Isles of Scilly have been excluded due to small numbers.
6. Where underlying values are equal, authorities are given the same rank value.

Pre-School Education: Fees and Charges

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the proportion of families using less than 12.5 hours a week of early years education for children who are eligible to receive it without paying but are paying a fee; and if he will make a statement. [163901]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* It is the responsibility of local authorities to ensure the early education entitlement is completely free at the point of delivery for all eligible three and four-year-olds. They should ensure that the providers to whom they make funding available make no charge for any element of the free entitlement. We expect them to take vigorous action if they identify any circumstances in which parents are charged inappropriately.

Primary Education: Music

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary school pupils were given the opportunity to learn a musical instrument in each year since 1997. [165098]

Jim Knight: This information is not routinely collected by the Department. However, in 1999, 2002, 2005 and 2007 the Department commissioned surveys of Local Authority Music Services, which collected data on the prevalence of music tuition. A report of the 2007 survey is due to be published on 21 November 2007. Previous survey reports are available at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/research

Data from these surveys on the prevalence of specialist instrumental and vocal tuition are summarised in the following table:

Academic year	KS1 pupils reported as receiving specialist instrumental or vocal tuition (percentage)	KS2 pupils reported as receiving specialist instrumental or vocal tuition (percentage)
2001/02	[1]	12
2004/05	2	13
2006/07	[2]	[2]

1 Data not available for KS1.
2 Data to be published on 21 November 2007.
Note:
Data from the 1999 survey were not comparable to following surveys and cannot be reported in this table. Most Music Services reported providing tuition for between 4 per cent. and 10 per cent. of their school population in 1999, but this was not broken down by Key Stage.

Specific national funding to support the widening of opportunities for primary children to access instrumental and vocal provision began in 2003. Data from the surveys on participation in this programme are reported in the following table:

Academic year	KS1 pupils reported as being involved in wider opportunities activities (percentage)	KS2 pupils reported as being involved in wider opportunities activities (percentage)
2003/04	[1]	8
2004/05	[1]	10
2005/06	5	22
2006/07	[2]	[2]

1 Data not available.
2 Data to be published on 21 November 2007.

The above figures do not take account of music tuition provided by those operating outside of local authority arrangements.

Pupils: Absenteeism

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the rate of *(a)* unauthorised and *(b)* authorised absence was in Year 9 in each month since 2003; [165750]

(2) what the rate of *(a)* unauthorised and *(b)* authorised absence in secondary schools was in each month since 2003; [165749]

(3) when and with what frequency pupil absence data are collected for each school year group. [165748]

Jim Knight: The first year for which information is available on absence rates by national curriculum year group is 2005/06 and relates to secondary schools only. Data are not available broken down by month of absence.

The available information is shown in the tables.

Data on pupil absence are collected via the School Census; secondary schools returned pupil absence data via this route for the first time in 2005/06 with primary schools making their first School Census return in January 2007. The School Census is collected three times per year with absence data being collected one term in arrears: the schedule of collections is:

January School Census—collects absence data for the autumn term;

May School Census—collects absence data for the spring term; and

October School Census—collects absence data for the first half of the summer term.

Special schools return absence data annually as part of the October School Census. Data are collected for all pupils of compulsory school age who are not boarding

Maintained Secondary Schools, City Technology Colleges and Academies[1]: Pupil Absence in National Curriculum Year 9[2], 2005/06, England

	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[4]	Percentage of half days missed[3] Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Total Overall absence
National Curriculum Year Group 9	598,760	6.76	1.30	8.06
Total[5]	2,983,040	6.82	1.42	8.24

1 Includes middle schools as deemed.
2 See Notes to Editors 10 of SFR11/2007 for further information on how absence figures by national curriculum year group have been derived.
3 The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.
4 Pupil numbers are as at January 2006. Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration. Excludes boarders.
5 Includes pupil enrolments for whom information on national curriculum year group was missing.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Maintained Secondary Schools[1], Pupil Absence, 2003/04 to 2004/05, England

	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[2]	Percentage of half days missed by all pupils Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence
2003/04	3,050,589	6.92	1.14	8.06
2004/05	3,037,013	6.58	1.23	7.81

1 Includes middle schools as deemed, excludes city technology colleges and academies.
2 Pupil numbers include pupils aged 5 to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration. Excludes boarders.
Source:
Survey of School Absence.

Maintained Secondary Schools[1], Pupil Absence, 2005/06, England

			Percentage of half days missed by all pupils		
	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[2]	Number of pupil enrolments[3,4]	Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence
2005/06	2,951,570	3,024,730	6.82	1.42	8.24

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed, excludes city technology colleges and academies.
[2] Pupil numbers include pupils aged 5 to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration. Excludes boarders.
[3] Number of pupil enrolments in schools between 1 September 2005 and 27 May 2006. Includes pupils on the roll for at least one sessions who are aged between 5 and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once if they moved schools during the school year or are registered on more than one school.
[4] There were some 7,240 cases from maintained secondary schools for whom absence data were missing. These cases have been excluded from the total number of pupil enrolments.

Maintained Secondary Schools[1], Pupil Absence, Autumn Term 2006 and Spring Term 2007, England

		Percentage of half days missed by all pupils		
	Number of pupil enrolments[2,3]	Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence
Autumn 2006	2,940,960	5.92	1.35	7.26
Spring 2007	2,926,420	6.77	1.61	8.38

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed, excludes city technology colleges and academies.
[2] Number of pupil enrolments in schools between 1 September 2005 and 27 May 2006. Includes pupils on the roll for at least one session who are aged between 5 and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once if they moved schools during the school year or are registered on more than one school.
[3] There were some 7,240 cases from maintained secondary schools for whom absence data were missing. These cases have been excluded from the total number of pupil enrolments.
Source:
School Census.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance his Department has issued to headteachers on the collection of absence data for the period May to July; [165751]

(2) what plans he has to review the accuracy of pupil absence data collected for the period May to July. [165752]

Jim Knight: Data on pupil absence are collected via the school census. The school census is carried out three times per year with absence data being collected one term in arrears: the schedule of collections is:

January School Census—collects absence data for the autumn term

May School Census—collects absence data for the spring term.

October School Census—collects absence data for the first half of the summer term.

School census guidance notes covering all the information collected via the census are prepared and made available for schools and local authorities via the Teachernet website in advance of each census.

The pupil registration regulations 2006 require that a school records attendance and absence data for the full academic year. However, the Department does not collect absence data for the second half of the summer term i.e. for the period from late May to July.

Pupils: Biometrics

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of total spending by schools on provision of equipment for collecting fingerprints of pupils in each year between 2003-04 and 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [163430]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect details of schools expenditure on equipment for collecting fingerprints of pupils and has no plans to do so.

Pupils: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the real terms annual change was in the minimum funding guarantee for pupils in each year since 2000-01; what he expects it to be in each year until 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [165070]

Jim Knight: The following table sets out the level of the minimum funding guarantee for each year from 2004-05, when it was introduced, until 2010-11.

	Percentage	
	Primary	Secondary
2004-05	4.0	4.0
2005-06	5.0	4.0
2006-07	4.0	3.4
2007-08	3.7	3.7
2008-09	2.1	2.1
2009-10	2.1	2.1
2010-11	2.1	2.1

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of funding per pupil in real terms using 2005-06 prices available in each local authority area in each year since 2001-02; how much will be available in each year until 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [165071]

Jim Knight: The available information has been placed in the House Library.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons he has not granted operational independence to the whole of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority; and if he will make a statement. [166040]

Jim Knight: At present, there is an inherent conflict of interest between the QCA's functions. The QCA is responsible for developing the content of public qualifications and tests and for the delivery of National Curriculum tests, as well as for regulating those qualifications and tests.

It would not be sufficient simply to make the QCA as it stands more independent of Ministers: we need to

make sure that the regulator's functions do not conflict, or have any appearance of conflict, and that there is a clear accountability framework for the regulator.

We have therefore announced the creation of a new independent regulator to ensure that the qualifications and tests taken both by young people and adults continue to command the full confidence of employers, further and higher education institutions and the wider public.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to set up a shadow Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to independently maintain educational standards. [166041]

Jim Knight: Following the consultation on our proposals for the future of qualifications regulation, we intend to establish a shadow regulator before the 2008 summer exams.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority will move to Coventry; and if he will make a statement. [166043]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority plans to relocate to Coventry between late spring 2009 and autumn 2009.

School Funding Settlement

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-31WS, on the school funding settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11 what estimate of the average cost pressures on schools in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11 underlay the decreases in the minimum funding guarantee; and if he will make a statement. [165074]

Jim Knight: Our assessment is that the national average of the wide range of cost pressures on pay and non-pay faced by schools over the next three years will be 2.1 per cent., which takes account of a 1 per cent. efficiency gain

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 27-31WS, on the school funding settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11 what assessment he has made of how schools can make the annual efficiency gains of 1 per cent. in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11. [165075]

Jim Knight: The Department recognises the need to support schools in improving value for money, and recently commissioned a study to assess the activities through which schools can operate more efficiently and the level of support required to ensure that schools have the right culture, capacity and capability to deliver improvements in value for money.

This work has identified a range of activities in which schools may seek efficiency gains including leadership remodelling, the wider school workforce, collaboration and partnership, purchasing, strategic management and the level of challenge offered to schools. There is already strong support available to schools in many of these areas through the Department, local authorities and other partner organisations.

The Department is now working towards a further package of support for schools, details of which will be announced in due course.

School Leaving

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the evidential basis is for compulsory training or education for 17 and 18 year-olds being economically beneficial for *(a)* individuals and *(b)* the public purse; and if he will make a statement. [163326]

Jim Knight: Individuals who stay on in education or training after 16 are more likely to gain further qualifications by 18 than those who do not, and they are likely to earn more in the future. Those with level 2 qualifications in particular (the equivalent of five GCSEs A*-C) earn an average of around £100,000 more over their lifetime than those who leave learning with qualifications below level 2. Individuals with higher levels of qualifications have better chances of finding, keeping and progressing in employment. There are also wider benefits related to further participation, including better health and a lower tendency towards crime. More information and references on this can be found in the Green Paper, "Raising Expectations: staying in education and training post-16," copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House.

Analysis has shown that raising the participation age will lead to substantial economic benefits for the country. The Initial Regulatory Impact Assessment that was published with the Green Paper has also been placed in the House Library. These projections are being revised and independently reviewed before being published in December, in the Impact Assessment that will accompany the Bill.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the expected lifetime earnings gains to young people with low status who take up *(a)* level 1 and *(b)* level 2 qualifications after year 11; and if he will make a statement. [163757]

Beverley Hughes: Expected lifetime earnings benefits will depend on: (i) the type of level 1 or level 2 qualification someone gains; (ii) their age when it is acquired; and (iii) the level of any other qualifications they hold. Current estimates take account of (i) and (iii), are based on average earnings benefits irrespective of when the qualification was gained, and assume that young people have around a 40-year working life.

Lifetime earnings benefits have not been estimated for level 1 qualifications. Earnings by qualification are obtained from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), but it is difficult to identify consistently and robustly people with level 1 qualifications, and hence the earnings gains associated with these qualifications.

Most people who achieve level 2 after year 11 do so through acquiring vocational qualifications. Analysis undertaken by McIntosh (2007)[1] estimates that young people with a level 2 Apprenticeship earn on average around £65,000 more over their working lifetime than

those who leave learning with qualifications at level 2 or below. The lifetime earning benefit for an NVQ2 qualification is around £20,000. Most people with academic qualifications at level 2 achieve them during compulsory schooling, as opposed to after year 11. We currently estimate that young people with five or more GCSEs A*-C (or 5 O-level passes) earn on average around £100,000 more over their working lifetime than those who leave learning with below level 2 qualifications.

These estimates are averaged across young people from all socio-economic groups. There is some indicative evidence [Dearden et al, 2004[2]] that wage returns for NVQ2 qualifications may be higher for individuals from lower socio-economic groups.

The Government's reforms to education and skills aim to increase the proportion of pupils who achieve level 1 and level 2 and to reduce the achievement gap among those from disadvantaged backgrounds. We have a target for 82 per cent. of young people to achieve level 2 by age 19 by 2010-11. The introduction of Diplomas, Functional Skills, the Foundation Learning Tier, and the expansion of apprenticeships are key elements of the reforms. We have recently announced our intention to bring forward legislation to raise the participation age in learning to 18 by 2015. Achieving qualifications at level 2 is the minimum level required for future employability.

[1] McIntosh, S. (2007) "A Cost-Benefit Analysis of Apprenticeships and Other Vocational Qualifications", Department for Education and Skills Research Report 834.

[2] Dearden, L., McGranahan, L. and Sianesi, B. (2004) "An In-Depth Analysis of the Returns to National Vocational Qualifications Obtained at Level 2", Centre for the Economics of Education Discussion Paper 46.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on new schools opening in areas where there are surplus places; and if he will make a statement. [166044]

Jim Knight: Local authorities, as commissioners of educational services, are responsible for balancing the supply and demand of school places in their area. They have a duty to ensure there are sufficient school places, that the needs local parents and children are served, and that good quality education is provided in a cost-effective way.

Local authorities may commission new schools where there is a need for extra places, and where they wish to reorganise provision and remove surplus places by replacing existing schools with new schools. Providers other than the local authority may also propose new schools in areas where there are surplus places, where this will increase diversity and parental choice, subject to the Secretary of State's agreement.

Where a new school is to be commissioned the local authority will normally be required to hold a competition and invite proposals from a range of potential providers. Only in exceptional circumstances will the Secretary of State grant an exemption from a competition.

Schools: Attendance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which 20 secondary schools had the biggest gap between pupil attendance and the funded school roll in the latest year for which figures are available; what the gap was in each case; and if he will make a statement; [165069]

(2) if he will list the 50 maintained schools with the worst attendance figures in England in 2007; what the comparable figures for their performance were in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [166029]

Jim Knight: Regulations specify that the budget set by the local authority for a school is based on the number of pupils on the school roll as reported in the January School Census.

Attendance figures are not published. School level information on absence rates, number of pupils on roll and performance indicators for 2004/05 and 2005/06 is available in the House Library. Data for 2006/07 are not yet published. Those will be available in January and placed in the Library. However, due to underlying changes in the data collection, absence rates for 2006/07 will not be directly comparable with earlier years.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what factors were taken into account in determining the school funding settlement for Bournemouth for 2008 to 2010. [165254]

Jim Knight: Bournemouth's allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2008-09 to 2010-11 will depend on the following factors: the authority's 2007-08 guaranteed unit of funding for DSG; and the number of pupils aged three to 15 in the authority's schools and early years providers. Full details of the calculation of Dedicated Schools Grant allocations may be found on TeacherNet at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=12222

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what account is taken of deprivation levels in deciding allocations of the dedicated school grant to local authorities; and what allocations of the grant was *(a)* for Metropolitan borough of Wirral and *(b)* on average for English local authorities in 2006-07. [165816]

Jim Knight: The distribution method for Dedicated Schools Grant starts from each authority's budgeted spend for schools in 2005-06, which largely reflects the historical allocation of resources through the Schools Formula Spending Share (FSS) formula, which gave additional funding for area costs, additional educational needs including deprivation, and sparsity. The total amount of funding distributed for deprivation nationally was £2,512 million of a total of £26,574 million and for Wirral £21 million from a total of £171 million. The Dedicated Schools Grant per pupil for Wirral for 2006-07 was £3,270 compared with an average for English local authorities of £3,411.

Schools: Rural Areas

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in England serve rural communities; how many of these are voluntary aided primary schools; how many rural schools have used staff procedures with two panels constituted from the same governing body; and how many of these have resulted in the dismissal of a member of staff. [165130]

Jim Knight: The Department uses the Countryside Agency's Rural and Urban Area Classification to identify rural schools. There are currently 1,074 rural voluntary aided primary schools and 32 rural voluntary aided secondary schools in England.

We do not collate national statistics on the circumstances and frequency of school work force dismissals. In the case of staff dismissal, the responsibility for this decision falls to the school's governing body, although the initial decision to dismiss can be delegated to the school's head teacher.

Where a school wishes to dismiss a member of staff, they must give that person the opportunity to make representation to the governing body (or head teacher) before the decision to dismiss can be taken. Where an initial dismissal decision is made, the member of staff must also be given an opportunity to appeal against that decision. The appeal hearing should be undertaken by at least three governors who have not been involved in any previous action or decision connected with the dismissal.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the first executive board to take over management of a failing school further to the Prime Minister's announcement of 31 October 2007. [164525]

Jim Knight: The Prime Minister referred to Interim Executive Boards (IEBs) in his speech on 31 October. These were introduced in the Education Act 2002. A local authority (LA) can apply to the Secretary of State for permission, temporarily to replace the governing body of a school which has been placed in the Ofsted categories of special measures or significant improvement; or which has not responded satisfactorily to a formal local authority warning notice under section 60 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The Secretary of State also has a reserve power to establish an IEB in exceptional cases.

The IEB takes on all of the powers and responsibilities of the governing body. So far 54 applications from local authorities have been approved and the Secretary of State has established two IEBs.

Once each IEB has fulfilled its objectives there is a phased return to normal governance.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which failing schools have been identified for possible takeover further to the Prime Minister's announcement on 4 September; [164755]

(2) what the Government's policy is on independent schools taking over failing maintained schools. [164524]

Jim Knight: The Prime Minister's announcement on 4 September referred to the establishment of federations between high-performing schools and those in need of educational improvement. This initiative does not involve the takeover of any school, but will retain the separate identities of the schools concerned, while facilitating closer partnership working and the exchange of expertise and experience. Discussions are currently taking place to confirm the schools which will take part in the initiative and we expect to make an announcement in the new year.

Successful fee-paying independent schools are being encouraged to sponsor or support an academy. The independent school can become the lead sponsor, taking on full responsibility for setting up and running a new academy or it may choose to become a co-sponsor, providing significant support through transfer of educational expertise, but looking to other sponsors to lead on other aspects of the school's development. Following a recent policy change, successful independent schools are not required to provide a cash endowment when sponsoring an academy. For successful independent day schools that want to serve their whole local community and broaden their pupil intake, there is the opportunity to become academies—maintaining the benefits of their autonomy, ethos and leadership, but ceasing to charge fees.

Science

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to work with outside agencies to improve young people's understanding of science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and if he will make a statement. [165416]

Jim Knight: We are already working with a wide range of partners and stakeholders, to improve young people's understanding of these subjects. For example we have set up:

the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) High Level Strategy Group to implement proposals and report on progress on the Government's STEM Programme. This group includes representatives from the Royal Society, Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the CBI; and

the STEM Advisory Forum, a mainly virtual forum that allows anyone, including employers, teachers, professional bodies, with an interest in STEM to contribute their views.

We also work directly with a range of external organisations both to help develop policy and provide support directly to schools. These include the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, the Training and Development Agency for Schools, Lifelong Learning UK, the National Strategies, the network of Science Learning Centres, the National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics, the Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics Network (STEMNET), and the Learning and Skills Network.

The Government very much value the contribution these outside organisations make to this agenda and will continue to work with them.

Secondary Education: Admissions

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of students in each London borough were unable to secure

a secondary school place within their borough of residence in each of the previous five years. [164610]

Jim Knight: We do not currently hold those data. However, we are consulting on draft regulations that propose to require local authorities to submit data on secondary preferences in future, including the number of children being offered a school place within their authority area. The consultation document is available on the DCSF website at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1506

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his Department's expectation is of the level of take-up of *(a)* vocational and *(b)* academic diplomas in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement; [165068]

(2) what his latest estimate is of the proportion of the school population in each age cohort who will be studying *(a)* GCSEs, *(b)* A-levels, *(c)* academic diplomas and *(d)* vocational diplomas in each year from 2008 to 2015; and if he will make a statement. [164442]

Jim Knight: The Government do not recognise the distinction between vocational and academic Diplomas. All 14-19 Diplomas will include theoretical and applied elements and are designed to move the country on from the sterile debates of the past about the academic vocational divide.

Figures put forward by the successful consortia applying through the first Gateway Process indicate that there will be approximately 39,000 places available for learners on the 'Phase 1' five new 14-19 Diplomas from September 2008. We anticipate that this will increase so that around 140,000 young people will be engaged in one of the first 10 Diploma lines from September 2009. These are the first steps on a phased roll-out of the new Diplomas. All 17 Diplomas will be available to young people from 2011. Projections of study broken down by other type of qualification are not available.

Specialised Diplomas: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what additional funding will be provided to each local authority area for the new diploma programmes in each year from 2006-07 to 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [165072]

Jim Knight: We provided through dedicated schools grant an increase of £40 million in 2006-07 and a further £70 million in 2007-08, a total of £110 million, to support more practical learning options at key stage 4. That funding is now part of the DSG baseline going forward and we expect local authorities to utilise it to support the roll out of diplomas. We will announce allocations for 2008/09 of specific formula grant to further support the roll out of diplomas in December: allocations for subsequent years will be announced after we have received the results of the relevant gateway processes.

Specialist Schools: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the extent to which spending on specialist schools has targeted educational disadvantage; and if he will make a statement. [166036]

Jim Knight: The Specialist Schools Programme is a universal offer open to all maintained secondary schools in England which meet the required standard. Over 86 per cent. of schools are now specialist and many are based in and around areas of social deprivation. The Department's CVA research uses detailed data about individual pupils taking into account factors like gender, ethnicity and deprivation and maps pupils' prior attainment at primary school on to their eventual results at GCSE level. This allows us to calculate that, on average, individual pupils (regardless of their social background) make good progress at specialist schools. Specialist status is linked to higher results at GCSE whether this is on the 5+A*-C measure, VA or CVA, which is why we continue to invest some £422 million a year in specialist school funding.

Specialist schools benefit from external sponsors, links with their community and an achievement ethos. They are focused on whole-school improvement through their specialism, backed up by challenging targets and partnerships with other schools. By working collaboratively with other schools to share specialist facilities and resources, the effects of specialist school funding are disseminated beyond the individual school.

Sure Start Programme

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Phase *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2 and *(c)* 3 Sure Start centres (i) there are and (ii) are planned in each (A) local education authority and (B) Parliamentary constituency; and if he will make a statement. [164823]

Beverley Hughes: The Government are on track to meet their commitment to deliver a Sure Start Children's Centre for every community in England by 2010, offering integrated services that will improve outcomes for young children, and reduce inequalities between the most disadvantaged and the rest. The following table shows, for each local authority, the number of centres (1) operational as at 9 November 2007 (2) planned for delivery by 2008 and (3) calculated by DCSF as required to reach the remaining children under five in phase 3. The Department does not record a breakdown of centres by constituency.

Local Authority	(1) Number operational centres (includes phase 1 and phase 2)[1]	(2) Number phase 2 centres planned for designation by 2008	(3) DCSF calculation on centres required in phase 3
Barking and Dagenham	11	3	3
Barnet	3	10	9
Barnsley	14	5	2
Bath and North East Somerset	5	3	3
Bedfordshire	14	12	10

Local Authority	(1) Number operational centres (includes phase 1 and phase 2)[1]	(2) Number phase 2 centres planned for designation by 2008	(3) DCSF calculation on centres required in phase 3
Bexley	8	0	5
Birmingham	49	18	13
Blackburn with Darwen	12	1	2
Blackpool	10	2	2
Bolton	6	9	4
Bournemouth	2	3	2
Bracknell Forest	1	5	3
Bradford	21	12	11
Brent	5	7	8
Brighton and Hove	9	5	5
Bristol, City of	11	12	7
Bromley	4	12	7
Buckinghamshire	14	10	11
Bury	3	8	3
Calderdale	8	10	3
Cambridgeshire	6	22	13
Camden	12	4	2
Cheshire	14	17	13
Cornwall	21	14	7
Coventry	14	5	4
Croydon	8	10	6
Cumbria	16	7	8
Darlington	4	2	2
Derby, City of	8	6	4
Derbyshire	23	20	12
Devon	15	16	14
Doncaster	14	8	3
Dorset	10	7	7
Dudley	8	9	5
Durham	34	9	6
Ealing	18	5	8
East Riding of Yorkshire	6	8	6
East Sussex	20	8	7
Enfield	10	3	8
Essex	23	37	30
Gateshead	10	5	1
Gloucestershire	15	16	11
Greenwich	15	8	4
Hackney	13	2	1
Halton	9	2	2
Hammersmith and Fulham	5	7	3
Hampshire	14	46	29
Haringey	11	7	4
Harrow	5	3	7
Hartlepool	5	2	1
Havering	2	6	4
Herefordshire	6	3	3[7]
Hertfordshire	21	28	30
Hillingdon	4	9	7
Hounslow	13	1	6
Isle of Wight	8	0	1
Isles of Scilly	0	1	0
Islington	11	5	0
Kensington and Chelsea	5	3	0
Kent	18	30	30
Kingston upon Hull, City of	12	5	2
Kingston upon Thames	4	3	4
Kirklees	18	14	7
Knowsley	13	3	1
Lambeth	13	13	3
Lancashire	55	5	18
Leeds	29	21	9
Leicester, City of	11	7	5
Leicestershire	4	22	15
Lewisham	6	8	4
Lincolnshire	13	24	12
Liverpool	21	3	1
London, City of	1	0	0
Luton	13	6	5
Manchester	27	6	5
Medway	7	7	6
Merton	2	7	5
Middlesbrough	8	4	2
Milton Keynes	8	4	7
Newcastle upon Tyne	10	6	2
Newham	10	10	1
Norfolk	21	15	15
North East Lincolnshire	6	6	1
North Lincolnshire	9	2	3
North Somerset	3	6	5
North Tyneside	10	1	3
North Yorkshire	9	18	12
Northamptonshire	16	12	16
Northumberland	17	6	5
Nottingham, City of	11	5	2
Nottinghamshire	24	24	12
Oldham	6	8	3
Oxfordshire	20	9	17
Peterborough, City of	7	4	4
Plymouth, City of	8	8	4
Poole	2	4	3
Portsmouth	7	6	3
Reading	4	6	4
Redbridge	5	6	8
Redcar and Cleveland	8	2	2
Richmond upon Thames	6	3	5
Rochdale	10	4	2
Rotherham	12	7	3
Rutland	—	—	1
Salford	9	6	2
Sandwell	12	6	3
Sefton	11	5	3
Sheffield	18	12	6
Shropshire	14		6
Slough	5	1	4
Solihull	8	3	3
Somerset	23	10	10
South Gloucestershire	9	2	6
South Tyneside	9	3	0
Southampton	12	0	4
Southend on Sea	5	5	3

Local Authority	(1) Number operational centres (includes phase 1 and phase 2)[1]	(2) Number phase 2 centres planned for designation by 2008	(3) DCSF calculation on centres required in phase 3
Southwark	12	8	2
St Helens	8	4	1
Staffordshire	14	25	15
Stockport	3	12	5
Stockton on Tees	5	5	3
Stoke on Trent	8	5	4
Suffolk	17	18	13
Sunderland	15	2	2
Surrey	25	13	29
Sutton	3	7	4
Swindon	7	3	5
Tameside	12	3	2
Telford and Wrekin	9	3	3
Thurrock	5	4	4
Torbay	4	3	1
Tower Hamlets	14	4	3
Trafford	7	3	5
Wakefield	17	4	4
Walsall	11	4	3
Waltham Forest	12	2	5
Wandsworth	6	9	8
Warrington	4	7	3
Warwickshire	17	14	12
West Berkshire	3	3	4
West Sussex	16	20	17
Westminster, City of	7	5	3
Wigan	7	11	4
Wiltshire	7	14	10
Windsor and Maidenhead	1	5	4
Wirral	10	10	4
Wokingham	1	6	4
Wolverhampton	10	6	3
Worcestershire	12	13	11
York, City of	2	6	4

[1] A significant number of centres that started development in phase 1 (2004-06) were not designated until the phase 2 period (2006-08). The Department did not make a rigid. distinction for centres in this category—phase 1 and 2 designation figures are therefore presented as a combined total.

Sure Start Programme: Expenditure

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what expenditure on Sure Start was in 2006-07; and how much has been allocated to the programme in 2007-08. [164805]

Beverley Hughes: Sure Start expenditure for 2006-07 and 2007-08 is shown in the table. Total expenditure includes Sure Start local programmes, child care, some nursery education funding and Sure Start Children's Centres.

Sure Start current and capital expenditure

	Amount (£ million)
2006-07	1,384
2007-08	1,645

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether he proposes to raise the minimum level of qualifications required for teachers in maintained schools; and if he will make a statement; [163315]

(2) what data his Department hold on the qualifications achieved by those applying for initial teacher training programmes; and if he will make a statement; [163316]

(3) how many entrants to initial teacher training programmes had *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* science GCSE grades of (i) A/A*, (ii) B and (iii) C in each year from 2000-01 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [163317]

Jim Knight: The minimum qualifications for those entering teacher training were reviewed in 2006 and were reflected in revisions to the Secretary of State's Requirements for Initial Teacher Training which have operated since September 2007 and can be found at http://www.tda.gov.uk/partners/ittstandards.aspx?keywords=requirements+for+itt. We have no current plans to review these again.

The amount of data held centrally on the qualifications achieved by those applying for initial teacher training programmes is limited because the Requirements for Initial Teacher Training place the onus on ITT providers to ensure that they only accept candidates who reach the required minimum standards. Information that is held centrally on qualification levels of people beginning undergraduate and postgraduate initial teacher training is given at Annexes A and B. No data are held centrally on the GCSE subjects and grades of entrants for the same reason, but all must have reached the required minimum of grade C or equivalent to be accepted.

Teachers: Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what new incentives are to be offered to teachers to teach in unpopular schools further to the Prime Minister's announcement of 31 October 2007. [164526]

Jim Knight: The forthcoming Children's Plan will set out the Government's ambition for school improvement and how the Department for Children Schools and Families will drive the necessary changes across the schools system.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* target and *(b)* outturn numbers of recruits to initial teacher training in each secondary school subject were in each year since 2001/02; what the target is for 2007/08; and if he will make a statement. [163433]

Jim Knight: *(a)* The following table shows the targets set for recruitment to mainstream Initial Teacher Training (ITT) in each secondary subject for each academic year between 2001/02 and 2007/08:

Initial teacher training places[1]: Academic years 2000/01 to 2007/08—England

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Secondary[1]	17,390	17,790	19,475	19,500	18,500	17,500	16,500
of which:							
Mathematics	1,940	1,940	2,315	2,350	2,350	2,350	2,350
English (including Drama)	2,160	2,350	2,350	2,350	2,200	2,040	1,920
Science	2,810	2,850	3,225	3,225	3,225	3,225	3,225
Modern foreign languages	2,050	2,050	2,050	2,050	1,900	1,790	1,670
Technology	2,150	2,500	2,850	2,895	2,890	2,730	2,515
of which[2]:							
Design and Technology	—	—	—	1,085	1,060	1,010	930
Information and communications technology	—	—	—	1,050	1,100	1,040	985
Business Studies	—	—	—	760	730	680	600
History	900	950	950	910	810	700	600
Geography	1,175	1,100	985	935	925	850	770
Physical Education	1,200	1,200	1,500	1,500	1,450	1,310	1,180
Art	850	850	900	880	800	700	600
Music	705	700	700	725	690	640	600
Religious Education	650	700	700	730	730	695	665
Citizenship	—	200	250	250	240	230	220
Economics, Social Sciences, Classics, Other subjects	450	300	300	300	290	240	185
Vocational subjects[3]	—	—	—	400	—	—	—
Margin of flexibility/Secondary reserve[4]	350	100	400	—	—	—	—

[1] Includes SCITT but excludes employment-based routes.
[2] Number of places for individual technology subjects is not available before 2004/05.
[3] Places for vocational subjects in 2006/07 are included with the allocation for related academic subject: Science includes places for applied science, design and technology includes both manufacturing and engineering, ICT includes applied ICT, business studies includes applied business, geography includes leisure and tourism, art includes applied art and other subjects includes health and social care. In 2004/05 places for vocational subjects were shown separately. In 2003/04 the margin of flexibility included places for a vocational subjects pilot.
[4] The margin of flexibility/secondary reserve constituted places that the TDA could allocate to any secondary subject, to support providers whose baselines would otherwise be below economic levels; to ensure the appropriate denominational balance; and to help providers with a high proportion of places in shortage subjects and who therefore had particular uncertainty of income.
Source:
DfES

(b) Recruitment figures to mainstream ITT courses in each secondary school subject each academic year between 2001/02 and 2006/07 are shown in the table as follows:

Recruitment to initial teacher training courses[1,2]: Academic years 2000/01 to 2006/07—England

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Secondary by subject						
Mathematics	1,550	1,670	1,940	2,030	1,920	2,000
English (inc. Drama)	2,220	2,480	2,420	2,380	2,110	2,210
Science[4]	2,590	2,700	2,870	2,830	2,890	2,990
General sciences	—	—	—	—	—	1,180
Biology	—	—	—	—	—	930
Chemistry	—	—	—	—	—	530
Physics	—	—	—	—	—	350
Modern foreign languages	1,710	1,730	1,820	1,620	1,500	1,500
Technology[5]	2,160	2,400	2,670	2,610	2,510	2,580
History	920	990	1,000	910	850	730
Geography	1,030	950	990	900	820	760
Physical education	1,330	1,330	1,590	1,530	1,530	1,410
Art	840	890	930	860	780	630
Music	650	600	620	600	620	660
Religious education	590	580	590	630	660	790
Citizenship[6]	150	190	220	240	220	230
Other[7]	230	170	230	250	360	230

Recruitment to initial teacher training courses[1,2]: Academic years 2000/01 to 2006/07—England

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Vocational subjects [8]	—	—	160	280	340	330
Total	15,980	16,670	18,050	17,670	17,110	17,040
Fast Track [3]	80	90	240	310	330	—
Grand total	16,060	16,760	18,290	17,980	17,440	17,040

[1] Recruitment figures for 2006/07 are provisional and are subject to change.
[2] Includes Universities and other HE institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment based routes. Recruitment numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 10.
[3] 2001/02 was the first year of Fast Track recruitment. The programme ended in 2005/06.
[4] Prior to 2006/07, the breakdown for science subjects was not available.
[5] Technology includes design and technology, information and communications technology, business studies, graphics, textiles and food technology.
[6] 2001/02 was the first year of recruitment for citizenship.
[7] Other includes classics, dance, economics, media, performing arts and social studies.
[8] Vocational subjects includes applied art and design, leisure and tourism, applied ICT, applied science, applied business, engineering, manufacturing, and health and social care.
Sources:
TDA's ITT Trainee Numbers Census 2000/01 - 2006/07

Places for vocational subjects, except for 2004/05, are included within the allocation for the related academic subject. Recruitment figures show vocational subjects separately from 2003/04 on. Updated tables, incorporating final 2006/07 and provisional 2007/08 recruitment data are scheduled to be published in January 2008.

The Training and Development Agency (TDA) announcement of 12 November 2007 included provisional recruitment figures for academic year 2007/08 for mainstream secondary overall and Science by subject. 16,219 were on mainstream secondary courses, including 968 Biology, 739 Chemistry and 477 Physics specialists.

Young People: Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to publish the action plan on providing young people with jobs, education or training. [164758]

Beverley Hughes: The Department published its strategy for reducing the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) on 5 November 2007. It is planned to follow this with a toolkit in January 2008 to help local authorities and their delivery partners develop and deliver their local plans for reducing NEET.

Young People: Employment

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the evidential basis was for his statement that around one per cent. of 16 to 18 year-olds are long-term not in education, employment and training. [165345]

Jim Knight: The estimate that around one per cent of 16 to 18 year-olds are long-term not in education, employment or training comes from the Youth Cohort Study. This study first contacts young people in the spring after they have finished compulsory education and collects information on their activities. Follow up studies are conducted at annual intervals, typically for a further three years.

The estimate of one per cent. comes from the proportion of young people who report being not in education, employment or training at each of the first three surveys, at academic age 16, 17 and 18. Because the Youth Cohort Study only measures activity at snapshots in time, it is possible that some of the one per cent. may be involved in some education, employment or training in the times in between surveys. The estimate of one per cent. is consistent for the cohort that took GCSEs in 2001 and the cohort that took GCSEs in 2003.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 20 November 2007

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Library

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to his Department's press release of 8 November 2007, how many visitors from Europe the British Library attracted in each year since 1997. [166155]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The British Library does not collect data specifically on visitors from Europe. It does, however, collect data in a number of specific areas of activity, which indicate the level of European usage of its services:

New Reader Passes and Renewals: Europe (excluding the UK)

	Number
1997	2,543
1998	3,525
1999	3,627
2000	4,093
2001	4,276
2002	4,112
2003	3,290
2004	3,580
2005	4,462
2006	4,618
2007 (to date)	3,792

Exhibition Visits

Exit surveys indicate that the Rest of Europe attendance for the last three British Library exhibitions were: 2006 Front Page 4 per cent. (4,458); 2006 London: A Life in Maps 9 per cent. (11,857) and 2007 Sacred 10 per cent. (20,005).

Website Visits

From market research undertaken during the past three years it is estimated that approximately 15 per cent. of website usage comes from the Rest of Europe. The British Library's current website usage stands at nine million unique hosts per annum, which suggests that approximately 1.35 million users are from the Rest of Europe.

Churches Conservation Trust: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has given to the Churches Conservation Trust in each of the last five years. [166674]

Margaret Hodge: The Churches Conservation Trust cares for Church of England churches no longer required for regular worship, and considered to be of historical or architectural significance. The Trust's Grant-in-Aid from the Department is shown in the table.

In addition, the Trust receives funding under the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme, which makes grants equivalent to the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed church buildings. The amounts received by the Trust in each year under the scheme are in the table.

	Grant in aid (£ million)	*Listed places of worship grant scheme (£)*
2002-03	3	307,676
2003-04	3	371,654
2004-05	3	304,837
2005-06	3	280,604
2006-07	3	588,444

Cricket: Primary Education

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to encourage cricket in primary schools. [162137]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Cricket is one of 26 sports helping to deliver the National School Sport Strategy. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), the National Governing Body for cricket, has received over £1.5 million to date to deliver its objectives for the Club Links and Step into Sport programmes within this Strategy.

The 2006-07 School Sport Survey found that cricket is the 5th most popular sport among schools in a school sport partnership, with 88 per cent. of primary schools offering it to their pupils. The survey also found that 53 per cent. of primary schools have links with a local cricket club.

We have established over 150 cricket community sports coaches through the CSC scheme. The majority of CSC time is spent within the school setting.

Since 2003, Sport England has allocated £14.15 million of Community Club Development Programme (CCDP) funding to the ECB to help community sports clubs develop, or redevelop its sports facilities. Early evaluation of CCDP indicates that, since 2003-04, it has made a key contribution to an increase in links between community sports clubs and schools.

The 'Chance to Shine' initiative, aimed at regenerating competitive cricket in state schools has received £4.5million funding to date, £2 million of Sports Lottery funding over the two years 2005 to 2007 and, 2007-08, £2.5 million through the National Sports Foundation.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what efficiency savings projects his Department put in place under the Spending Review 2004 targets; on what date each was initiated; how much each was expected to contribute to the target; how much was saved by each; and if he will make a statement. [164146]

Margaret Hodge: The Department has five efficiency programme streams that contribute to its overall target of £262 million savings over the SR04 spending period. Latest figures up to June 2007 are:

	June 2007 Outturn	£ million March 2008 Target
DCMS Internal	1	2
Museums and Galleries NDPBs	52.9	45
Heritage NDPBs	12.8	14
Strategic NDPBS	52.2	55
Local Authorities	84.6	146
Total	203.5	262

Our efficiency savings are reported publicly in our Departmental Annual Report and our Autumn Performance Report. The 2007 Autumn Performance Report, due to be published in December, will contain the latest figures up to September 2007.

Departmental Flexible Working

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours (i) in his Department and (ii) the Executive agencies for which his Department is responsible. [164317]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not keep central records of *(a)* staff who have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* central records of how many staff work flexible hours. Many requests for flexible working are made informally between managers and staff and therefore not formally recorded.

The information requested could therefore be provided only at disproportionate costs. However, the Department for Culture, Media and Sports operates a flexible working policy that includes:

Flexible working hours (formal and informal flexi, compressed hours, term-time working and annualised hours);

Part-time working or job sharing; and

Home working including formal or informal arrangements.

Our Agency, The Royal Parks, is also unable to provide information on number of staff who have applied to work flexible hours or work flexible hours.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government *(a)* have taken and *(b)* plan to take to assist elderly people in London to prepare for the switchover from analogue to digital TV; and if he will make a statement. [162205]

James Purnell: The Government have asked the BBC to establish and fund the digital switchover help scheme. This scheme will assist the over-75s and those with significant disabilities (including the blind or visually impaired) to convert to digital television. This help is free of charge to poorest households—those who receive income support or pension credit. Others will pay a £40 charge.

The help scheme will be available to eligible residents in London at least eight months before switchover begins in the London area. The London ITV region is scheduled to switchover in the first half of 2012.

In the meantime, advice and information about digital switchover is available from Digital UK: from their website www.digitaluk.co.uk<http://www.digitaluk.co.uk> or by calling Digital UK's helpline on 0845 650 5050.

Festivals and Special Occasions: Film

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to his Department's press release of 1 November 2007 (127/07), what plans there are to attract *(a)* inbound and *(b)* domestic visitors to the proposed UK Film Council-funded film festivals. [166156]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The role of the Film Festivals Fund in attracting inbound and domestic visitors is fully set out in the Strategy for the UK-Wide Film Festival which is available on the UK Film Council's website at:

http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk.

As part of the assessment process for the Film Festivals Fund, applicants must demonstrate a festival's contribution to the UK economy in terms of employment, skills, exports, inward investment and tourism.

Football Foundation: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has given to the Football Foundation in each of the last five years. [166673]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has given a total of £124 million to the Football Foundation since 2000. The first funding period from 2000-01 to 2004-05 was £62 million made up of £24 million Lottery funding, £30 million from the New Opportunities Fund and £8 million from the Pools betting duty.

The second funding period from 2005-06 to 2006-07 was for £45 million made up of £25 million Lottery funding and £20 million Exchequer funding through Spending Review 2004 and Sport England.

For 2007-08 the funding was £15 million from DCMS.

In addition the Football Foundation received £2 million Exchequer funding for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 for anti-crime initiatives.

Heritage

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when a decision is expected from English Heritage on the possibility of listing remaining buildings at the Standish Hospital site. [163641]

Margaret Hodge: While English Heritage receives applications, assesses buildings and makes recommendations, responsibility for decisions on whether or not to list a building remains, under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, with the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State has

received advice from English Heritage on Block C (the former women's ward) at Standish hospital, and will be making a decision shortly. I will inform the hon. Member by December.

Sports Direct: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on the establishment of Sports Direct; and what proportion of this has been spent on consultancy fees. [165095]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* All costs of developing and establishing Sports Direct have been met within existing budgets. There was no separate budget for Sports Direct.

Sport England commissioned consultants to produce a feasibility study at a cost of £8,000 in 2005.

Sports: Children

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether there are any schemes funded in whole or in part by the Government that encourage sporting participation among children under five-years-old. [164340]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), a single framework for learning, development and care for children from birth to age five, will become statutory in all settings from September 2008. The physical development of babies and young children is one of the six areas of learning and development which practitioners must encourage through play and by providing opportunities for physical activities. Implementation of the EYFS is funded through grants for training and delivery primarily through the free offer for three and four-year-olds.

Sports: Schools

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 639W, on Sports: Schools, by what date he estimates that the 225 competition managers will be in post. [166677]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We estimate that our final wave of senior competition managers will be in post between April and September 2008, and our final wave of competition managers between September 2008 and January 2009.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many extra licence fee payers there are expected to be as a result of household growth in each year between 2007 and 2016; and how much the BBC expects to receive from such licence fee payers over this period. [164338]

James Purnell: The current licence fee settlement, which runs to 2012-13, assumes a continued household growth rate of 0.8 per cent. per year, generating additional revenue of around £600 million over the settlement period. The growth assumption to be made for later years will be a matter for the next funding settlement.

Video Games: Violence

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department has provided for the Byron Review since its establishment; and how much it is expected to provide over the lifetime of the review. [165941]

Margaret Hodge: The Department has contributed two members of staff and their associated expenses to the review team for the lifetime of the review. We have not yet finalised the level of our financial contribution.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel returning to the UK from duty in Iraq and Afghanistan in each of the last three years listed their principal private residence listed as being in Peterborough constituency. [165919]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Homosexuality

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether mechanisms exist in his Department for recording the number of homosexual recruits joining HM armed forces. [166408]

Derek Twigg: The armed forces do not record the sexual orientation of recruits joining the services as an individual's sexuality is considered to be a private life matter.

Army: Complaints

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints considered under Army redress procedures have been made by *(a)* officers, *(b)* non-commissioned officers, *(c)* private soldiers and *(d)* untrained private soldiers since 1997; and how many of these were (i) successful and (ii) unsuccessful. [165794]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence does not hold complete records dating back to 1997. However, during the period 1 January 1999 to 16 November 2007, our records indicate that 525 officers, 1,172 non-commissioned officers and 252 private soldiers (trained and untrained) applied for redress of complaint.

The results of redress of complaints are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedural time limits apply to the issue of a decision by the Army Board on a complaint under Army redress procedures relating to *(a)* sexual harassment, *(b)* racial harassment, *(c)* parental leave directive, *(d)* pay and (e) religion. [165796]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no absolute time limits on the processing of application of complaints by the Army Board because each complaint is different and must be treated on its own merits. Guidance contained within the Army General Administrative Instruction Chapter 70 suggests 60 working days from receipt by the board for it to make a determination. However, from 1 January 2008, new procedures will come into effect as a result of the Armed Forces Act 2006. From that point most complaints will be referred to service complaint panels rather than service boards. The suggested timings for the panels to make their decisions will be the same as for the Army Board at present.

In addition, the new Service Complaints Commissioner will provide an alternative way for service personnel to make certain types of complaints. The Commissioner will set her own reporting timelines for monitoring progress when she passes complaints to the services for action.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers who made complaints under Army redress procedures since 1997 subsequently committed suicide. [165797]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Our records indicate that since 1997 one soldier whose death was recorded by a coroner as suicide is known to have submitted a redress of complaint. There is no evidence to suggest that the redress, which was withdrawn, and the soldier's death were linked.

Army: Disciplinary Proceedings

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* officers, *(b)* non-commissioned officers and *(c)* private soldiers have been disciplined following the outcome of (i) an Army Board decision, (ii) a divisional level decision and (iii) a unit level decision since 1997. [165795]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Expenditure

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 125W, on departmental expenditure, what his Department spent on office refurbishment and repairs in each financial year since 2002-03. [166111]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Participation

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what public consultations his Department has conducted since May 2005. [165879]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Research: Renewable Energy

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the budget for research and development for each type of renewable energy technology was in each of the last 10 years. [162174]

Ian Pearson: Government Department and Research Councils expenditure on R and D on renewable energy technologies from 1997 is set out as follows.

Research councils expenditure

£000

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Wind	200	226	178	261	330	490	482	243	125	1,140
Solar	3,695	4,288	3,836	4,126	4,666	3,927	3,834	4,179	4,065	1,651
Fuel cells and Hydrogen	918	1,147	762	982	1,464	1,985	2,687	2,394	2,706	3,074
Wave and Tidal	0	157	175	301	606	617	830	995	1,026	1,080
Bioenergy	447	871	736	622	752	927	1,177	1,250	2,023	4,123
Geothermal	0	0	0	40	65	64	73	79	106	124
Storage	326	650	670	838	889	810	730	467	789	1,193
Networks	1,348	1,168	1,081	919	1,115	1,388	1,805	2,390	3,666	4,037
Other renewable	70	95	152	268	433	587	453	1,221	1,315	2,380
Total	7,004	8,602	7,590	8,357	10,320	10,795	12,071	13,218	15,821	18,802

In addition the Research Councils have supported further research relating to energy in the work of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, which has some £15.6 million funding from Research Councils over 2000-09, and in the work of the UK Energy Research Centre which commenced operation in 2004, with a budget of £13.9 million for 2004-09.

WALES

Departmental Expenditure

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to his written statement of 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 111-12WS, on Departmental

Expenditure (Wales Office), what the reasons are for the transfers of *(a)* £226,000 from the Parliamentary Counsel Office to the Wales Office, *(b)* £220,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government to the Wales Office and *(c)* £30,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government to the Wales Office. [166668]

Mr. Hain: The reasons for the transfers are:

(a) £226,000 from the Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) to the Wales Office to contribute to the total cost of services the PCO provided in drafting legislation on behalf of the Wales Office;

(b) £220,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government to the Wales Office to cover the full year cost of services provided by the Department for Constitutional Affairs, now the Ministry of Justice, following the Machinery of Government Changes in 2003; and

(c) £30,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government to the Wales Office to cover increased forecast costs for Lord Lieutenants in Wales.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what change there has been in the number of officials in his Department since the publication of the 2007 Annual Departmental Report; what the grades and responsibilities are of staff recruited since that time; and how many and what vacancies his Department has. [166280]

Mr. Hain: Since the 2007 Annual Departmental Report, there has been little change in overall numbers. The Wales Office has reorganized to meet new challenges better. This has involved re-assigning some people, and recruitment to replace leavers. Two staff have been recruited specifically to strengthen the Legislation and Strategic Policy teams, and another to strengthen office support.

We expect to replace a few staff who will leave in the next couple of months, and to advertise for a new senior civil servant to lead on legislation. We will continue to be within the maximum of 62 posts indicated in the 2007 Departmental Report.

Welsh Grand Committee

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether he plans to arrange meetings of the Welsh Grand Committee in Wales. [166234]

Mr. Hain: There are currently no plans to hold a Welsh Grand Committee in Wales but I am happy to consider any proposals to do so.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers: Forest of Dean

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of people in Forest of Dean constituency that (i) receive and (ii) provide unpaid care. [162802]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not held centrally.

Disables: Equal Opportunities

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library the report of the meeting of the United Kingdom Advisory Network on Disability Equality held on 12 November. [166311]

Mrs. McGuire: Equality 2025; The United Kingdom Advisory Network on Disability Equality held their first public meeting on the 12 November 2007. The report is currently being written and, when completed, will be available on the Equality 2025 pages of the Office for Disability Issues' website. A copy will be placed in the Library. Summaries of future meetings will be available on the website:

www.officefordisability.gov.uk/equality2025

TRANSPORT

A1: Dual Carriageways

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the projected cost is of the two A1 dualling projects listed as on hold on the Highways Agency website. [163235]

Mr. Tom Harris: The A1 Adderstone to Belford and the A1 Morpeth to Felton dualling schemes are on hold because they were not prioritised for funding by the Interim North East Regional Transport Board within the regional funding allocation for major transport schemes up to 2015-16. The Highways Agency is not progressing any work on these two schemes and there are no current estimates of their cost.

Airports: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which UK airports handling one million or more passengers per annum will be affected by the EU Airports Charges Directive; when the provisions of that Directive will be applied to UK airports; and how many UK airports are affected by existing UK price control regulation. [162910]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The criteria regarding which airports would be affected by the EU airports charges directive have been debated in council working groups and feature in proposed MEP amendments to the directive. The directive is still in the early stages of the co-decision procedure and so it is too early to say what the final position will be on the scope of the directive, or when the directive's provisions will be applied to UK airports. This will depend on when the directive is adopted at EU level and the date that it is subsequently transposed into UK law. Four UK airports (Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Manchester) are currently designated for the purposes of price control. The two concurrent public consultations on the designated status of Manchester and Stansted airports closed on 17 October. The Secretary of State is currently reviewing the evidence.

Aviation: Noise

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on carrying out the Attitudes To Noise From Aviation Sources in England study in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [162125]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The costs for the Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources in England (ANASE) study are currently:

	£
2007-08	[1]—
2006-07	239,911.04
2005-06	471,527.63
2004-05	207,027.75
2003-04	237,281.49
2002-03	218,843.39
2001-02	61,780.50

[1] Figures for 2007-08 are incomplete.

British Transport Police: Assaults on Police

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many reports were received of British Transport police officers being *(a)* physically assaulted, *(b)* verbally assaulted and *(c)* spat at in each of the last five years. [163473]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport police who can be contacted at:

British Transport Police,
25 Camden Road,
London NW1 9LN,
E-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

British Waterways Board: Finance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much in freight facility grants she allocated to British Waterways in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [165478]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has provided British Waterways (BW) with one Freight Facility Grant (FFG) since 1997. Earlier this year, BW was awarded £1.37 million towards the cost of constructing a lock in the Prescott Channel to enable the transport of construction materials by water to the Olympic site.

BW has applied for an additional £0.5 million of FFG funding for the transport of materials by water to the Stratford City development site. A decision on whether to agree to this additional funding has not yet been made.

As far as I am aware these are the only applications for FFG funding that the Department has received from British Waterways in this period.

Crossrail Line

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when spending figures per head on transport in *(a)* London and *(b)* each of the English regions will be recalculated to take into account the decision to fund Crossrail; when she expects to publish the re-calculated figures; and if she will make a statement. [165975]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The regional breakdown of our past spending and future spending plans is produced annually, and published in the Department's annual report and in the "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses" produced by the Treasury and the Office for National Statistics. These documents are normally published in April or May.

Departmental Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport at what functions between October 2006 and September 2007 her Department incurred expenditure on official hospitality; and how much was incurred at each function. [162222]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information on the functions at which the Department incurred expenditure on official hospitality is not centrally recorded and this information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure incurred by the Department is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which are based on the principles set out in Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the full-time equivalent headcount in her Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for her Department is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if she will make a statement. [163984]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Workforce statistics for the Department for Transport were published by the Office of National Statistics in Table 6 of First Release: Public sector employment, Quarter 2 2007. A copy is available in the Library of the House and at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pse0907.pdf.

The Department has 18,240 full-time equivalent permanent staff. Workforce forward projections for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are not yet completed.

Departmental NDPBs

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by her Department; who the chairman is of each; and to what salary, including bonuses and expenses, each chairman is entitled. [163612]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Details of the Department for Transport's non-departmental public bodies and their remits are set out in the Department's annual report for 2007, Cm7095. This can be found online at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/publications/apr/ar2007/dftannualreport2007?page=3#a1014.

The published annual reports and accounts of the non-departmental public bodies set out the remuneration details of each organisation's chairman. Websites are listed at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/publications/apr/ar2007/a1014.

Financial data for the non-departmental public bodies, including budgetary information, is set out in both the Department's annual report and the published annual reports and accounts of the non-departmental public bodies.

Some information may not have as yet been published, as information is currently being collated and will be published in due course.

Galileo

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the estimated through-life cost of the Galileo satellite system; what other criteria were taken into account in the Government's assessment of the merits of UK involvement; and if she will make a statement. [165570]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The Commission's latest estimates for the costs of Galileo, based on a public procurement, are €3.4 billion (£2.3 billion) over the period to 2013 for deployment and initial operation of the system, with subsequent operation, maintenance and replenishment costs of around €6 billion (£4.16 billion) over the following 17 years to 2030. Approximately €1.6 billion (£1.1 billion) is committed spend on the design and development of the system. The Commission estimates these costs might be offset by a revenue stream from chargeable Galileo services. The Commission estimate these revenues as being in the range of €4.6 billion to €11.7 billion (£3.1 billion to £8.1 billion) to 2030.

In considering the benefits from the deployment of a Community Global Navigational Satellite System the Government believe it is necessary to look at the potential economic benefits to the Community as a whole, as well as the potential opportunities for the UK space industry and for the downstream application providers in the UK, who might benefit from the greater availability and wider services that Galileo should offer.

Great Western Trains: Standards

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment her Department has made of the performance of First Great Western train services; and if she will place in the Library the most recent performance statistics. [165289]

Mr. Tom Harris: Improving rail performance is a key objective for the Department for Transport. Joint action plans are in place between Network Rail and FGW to address performance issues. Additionally, FGW has implemented a 40-point Recovery Plan. These are monitored monthly. I recently held a meeting with FGW's new Chief Operating Officer and Network Rail's new Route Director.

In the year to 13 October 2007 FGW achieved an average punctuality of 82.6 per cent. across the franchise as a whole and 84.5 per cent. during the preceding four week period.

The most recent FGW performance statistics are not available in the Library, but can be found from the following sources:

Network Rail's site with most recent four-weekly results by train operator:

http://www.networkrail.co.uk/aspx/742.aspx

FGW's own site with current performance results information:

http://www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk/Content.aspx?id=265

ORR national Rail Trends Yearbook 2006-07:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.8802

Highways Agency: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to her answer of 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2048W, how much was spent by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency on the creation of (i) an eighth Highways Agency regional operating unit in 2005-06 and (ii) a ninth Highways Agency regional operating unit in 2006-07. [163472]

Mr. Tom Harris: The numbers of regional operating units increased in 2005-06 as a result of some restructuring of the internal budgeting and reporting arrangements for Traffic Operations directorate. Existing budgets were redistributed and no additional costs incurred.

In 2006-07 a new division was created in the Major Projects directorate to administer the M25 Design Build Finance Operate project. Again, resources were largely found by reallocation of existing budgets with the exception of approximately £100,000 additional salary and pension costs.

Leominster Railway Station

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to improve access at Leominster railway station; whether Leominster railway station will be included in the next round of access for all funding; and if she will make a statement. [165461]

Mr. Tom Harris: So far we have announced 92 stations in England and Wales and eight in Scotland that will be targeted for Access for All funding up to 2012. We are currently drawing up a list of stations to be included in the programme from 2012 to 2015 which we hope to publish by the end of this year. While I cannot yet give a commitment on which stations will be included, the case for Leominster has been noted and it will be considered for inclusion.

Lorries: Tolls

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Government plan to seek to charge foreign hauliers for their use of UK roads. [164643]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is currently undertaking a feasibility study to explore ways of delivering better targeted enforcement on foreign heavy goods vehicles. This is looking at a range of potential schemes including a time-based charge for the use of UK roads, which, if pursued, could result in foreign hauliers making a daily, monthly or annual payment. No decisions have been taken on this.

M6

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her most recent estimated cost is of the proposed M6 widening between junctions 11A and 19. [164177]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency is investigating a number of alternative options for improving travel conditions on the M6 between J11A and 19, including possible widening to dual four lanes. A range of cost estimates will result from this work and we do not have any definitive estimates at this stage.

National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings have been held by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department with the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers since 27 June; and what the dates were of each meeting. [163239]

Mr. Tom Harris: Ministers and officials have had a number of meetings with the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (on an individual basis or as part of a wider group) since 27 June to discuss a range of issues.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings were held by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department with the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers in each of the last five years. [163240]

Mr. Tom Harris: Ministers and officials have had a number of meetings with the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (on an individual basis or as part of a wider group) in each of the last five years to discuss a range of issues.

Network Rail: Cost Effectiveness

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in what areas she expects Network Rail to make savings in order to achieve the 31 per cent. target by 2009; how Network Rail will make efficiency savings of 31 per cent. by 2009; and what savings she has already identified within Network Rail. [163478]

Mr. Tom Harris: It falls to the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) to confirm progress in the delivery of Network Rail's efficiency performance over the period from 2004-09 against the 31 per cent. unit cost-efficiency target which the ORR set under its 2003 Access Charges Review.

Monitoring by the ORR shows that Network Rail remains on course to achieve the overall cost efficiencies of 31 per cent. by 2009.

Opinion Leader Research

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many contracts were awarded by her Department to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Department in each case. [165263]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department was formed in May 2002. It has awarded no contracts to Opinion Leader Research.

Park and Ride Schemes: Finance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much money is to be paid in total to the East Riding of Yorkshire council to enable the proposed Bridlington Park and Ride scheme and associated works to go ahead. [165100]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The total amount of funding to be provided by the Department for this scheme is £4.708 million.

Parking: Beaconsfield Railway Station

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total cost of constructing the upper floor car parking area at Beaconsfield Railway Station was; and when such construction took place. [165101]

Mr. Tom Harris: These are operational matters for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The right hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his questions.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Public Expenditure

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much she has allocated to the next tranche of Access for All funding. [163962]

Mr. Tom Harris: We are currently drawing-up the third list of stations for inclusion in the Access for All programme. Until detailed designs have been prepared for the selected stations it is too early to give an accurate estimate of the costs for these works. The programme has a ring-fenced budget of £370 million until 2015.

Railways

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of railway costs were borne by the *(a)* taxpayer and *(b)* fare payer in the latest period for which figures are available. [164637]

Mr. Tom Harris: The latest passenger revenue and Government support figures are set out in National Rail Trends which is published by the Office of Rail Regulation and is available on their website at www.rail-reg.gov.uk. Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the expected additional journey time is for commuters who will have to travel from Winchester to Romsey by rail, via Southampton, when the direct rail link bus service is discontinued; and if she will make a statement. [165427]

Mr. Tom Harris: The current time for the rail link bus between Winchester and Romsey is 25-26 minutes. In the new timetable the time by rail from Winchester to Romsey via Eastleigh will vary dependent on the time of day but at best is 42 minutes, an increase of 17 minutes.

Additionally, it should be noted that the X66 commercial bus service runs a parallel service taking approximately 30 minutes.

Railways: Stansted Airport

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans there are to upgrade the Stansted Airport to Liverpool Street railway line. [166328]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department is currently assessing options for future train service and rail infrastructure enhancements on the Stansted to Liverpool Street line in conjunction with Network Rail, BAA and Transport for London. The focus of this work is to ensure a better service and additional capacity for commuters and leisure travellers, as well as the growing market for rail travel to Stansted airport. An announcement is expected to be made in early 2008 and the outcome of the work is expected to be reflected in the Network Route Utilisation Strategy for the route.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans there are to upgrade the rolling stock used on the Stansted Airport to Liverpool Street railway line. [166329]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department's White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway" published in July, set out a commitment to increase capacity on the network with around 1,300 additional carriages. The Department will publish a Rolling Stock Plan in January 2008, setting out its proposals in more detail.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many deaths took place on British roads in each of the last five years. [166490]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is available from table 2 of "Road Casualties Great Britain: 2006 annual report". Copies of the report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. This table can also be found on the Department's website at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/172974/173025/221412/221549/227755/285672/WebTables120.xls

South West Trains: Bus Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations her Department has received from South West Trains on the Winchester to Romsey rail link bus; and if she will make a statement. [166400]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State for Transport has received no representations from South West Trains on the Winchester to Romsey rail link bus.

South West Trains: Franchises

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 94W, on South West Trains: Winchester, if she will identify *(a)* what the new opportunities for transport integration in the franchise awarded to South West Trains were and *(b)* which established links have been removed from the new franchise; and if she will make a statement. [166118]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information is as follows:

(a) The Franchise Agreement commits Stagecoach South Western Trains (SSWT) to:

Procure a bus link between Waterlooville and Petersfield from December 2007

Promote other transport integration measures to customers which may include:

- advertising and promotion of integrated tickets
- liaison with local bus and coach operators
- promotion of park and ride facilities
- staff training to ensure staff are informed and helpful to assist customers with their onward journey
- access integration, working closely with disability groups and organisations

Install an additional 700 bicycle spaces by February 2013

Establish two new Plus Bus Schemes

(b) The Romsey to Winchester Rail Link bus service is being withdrawn due to the low number of passengers using it. This dedicated bus link is not a commitment within the current SSWT Franchise Agreement; therefore, SSWT are under no obligation to continue to provide this facility.

Waterloo Station

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what commercial property opportunities Network Rail is exploring at Waterloo station. [166576]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is an operational matter for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national

rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol Disorder Zones

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many alcohol disorder zones were instituted in each year since their inception. [165423]

Mr. Coaker: To date, no alcohol disorder zones have been instituted, as the power requires final legislative scrutiny before being commenced. This final ratification of the statutory instrument by affirmative resolution will be progressed during the next two months.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what requirements exist on the recording of observations on the condition of animals used for scientific testing, whether or not there is a change in condition; [163011]

(2) whether records on the condition of animals are kept on a 24-hour basis by establishments with a certificate of designation under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. [163012]

Meg Hillier: Record keeping requirements for designated establishments are set out in paragraphs 4.27 to 4.33 and appendices B and C of the published Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (HC321). In addition to the requirements for adequate records to be maintained by project and personal licence holders these include the requirement of a health record maintained under the supervision of the Named Veterinary Surgeon or other suitably qualified person. The Named Veterinary Surgeon's records have to be maintained to the proper professional standard.

A number of record formats have evolved to satisfy Home Office requirements and meet local needs. Observation schedules and record keeping are expected to make proper provision for the checking of animals and recording of significant findings outside normal working hours, where necessary. The records must be made available to the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate on request. Failure to maintain records in an acceptable format is in breach of the terms and conditions of authorities issued under the 1986 Act.

BAE Systems

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has received representations from the US Administration about the US Department of Justice Mutual Legal Assistance request with regard to BAE Systems. [163485]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to previous answers provided on this matter. I can confirm that the Home Office received a request for assistance from the USA in respect of corruption allegations concerning BAE Systems. The request is being dealt with in accordance with the bi-lateral treaty on mutual legal assistance between the UK and the USA. It would be inappropriate to comment further.

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has received representations from BAE Systems with regard to the US Department of Justice Mutual Legal Assistance request into allegations of misconduct involving BAE Systems. [163486]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to previous answers provided on this matter. I can confirm that the Home Office received a request for assistance from the USA in respect of corruption allegations concerning BAE Systems. The request is being dealt with in accordance with the bi-lateral treaty on mutual legal assistance between the UK and the USA. It would be inappropriate to comment further.

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether the US Administration has made representations to his Department with regard to the UK processing of the US Mutual Legal Assistance request into allegations of misconduct involving BAE Systems; [163487]

(2) whether US investigators have visited the UK in relation to the US Department of Justice investigation into allegations of bribery involving BAE Systems in the last two months; and whether investigators have met officials from her Department. [163525]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to previous answers provided on this matter. I can confirm that the Home Office received a request for assistance from the USA in respect of corruption allegations concerning BAE Systems. The request is being dealt with in accordance with the bi-lateral treaty on mutual legal assistance between the UK and the USA. It would be inappropriate to comment further.

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from BAE Systems with regard to the US Department of Justice Mutual Legal Assistance request in relation to allegations of misconduct involving BAE Systems; and on what dates such representations were received. [164611]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to previous answers provided on this matter. I can confirm that the Home Office received a request for assistance from the USA in respect of corruption allegations concerning BAE Systems. The request is being dealt with in accordance with the bi-lateral treaty on mutual legal assistance between the UK and the USA. It would be inappropriate to comment further.

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many representations have been received by her Department on the UK processing of the US Mutual Legal Assistance request into allegations of misconduct involving BAE Systems; and on what dates such representations were received. [164612]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to previous answers provided on this matter. I can confirm that the Home Office received a request for assistance from the USA in respect of corruption allegations concerning BAE Systems. The request is being dealt with in accordance with the bi-lateral treaty on mutual legal assistance between the UK and the USA. It would be inappropriate to comment further.

Crime: Young People

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of the youth crime seminar held at No. 10 Downing Street on 8 November. [164789]

Mr. Coaker: The Youth Crime Seminar on 8 November was held as a series of events on youth crime, as part of the preparation of a new youth crime action plan, for publication in early 2008. The action plan is developing a renewed cross-Government (HO, DCSF, MoJ and partners) approach to youth crime. The published plan will take account of the recommendations from the seminar and all other work with stakeholders including a follow-up to the seminar.

Criminal Justice Act 2003

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects section 281(5) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 to be implemented. [165960]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

No decision has yet been taken on an implementation date.

Drugs: Animal Experiments

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the merits of the use of non-human primates and other animals in recreational drug tests; and if she will make a statement. [162309]

Meg Hillier: The use of animals in scientific procedures is regulated by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, which is widely viewed as the most rigorous piece of legislation of its type in the world. In order to be licensed under the 1986 Act, a project must be for one of the 'permissible purposes' listed in section 5(3) of the Act. These include: the prevention (whether by the testing of any product or otherwise) or the diagnosis or treatment of disease, ill health or abnormality, or their effects, in man, animals or plants; the assessment, detection, regulation or modification of physiological conditions in man, animals or plants; and the advancement of knowledge in biological or behavioural sciences. Any projects licensed under the 1986 Act involving the use of so-called recreational drugs would have to satisfy one or more of these requirements.

Licensed studies involving such drugs may provide valuable new information about the modes of action of the individual drugs and drug addiction and abuse in general, their short and long-term adverse effects, and how these can be avoided or managed. Such insights are essential to better inform the prevention and treatment of these activities and conditions. Many such drugs are also currently used or are being further evaluated, for legitimate clinical use.

Identity Cards: Costs

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* standalone passports issued, *(b)* standalone identity cards issued and *(c)* identity cards issued jointly with passports are included in the estimate of the annual volume of products issued in table 4 of the November 2007 identity cards cost report. [164091]

Meg Hillier: Providing a specific breakdown of estimated future numbers of ID cards, passports and combination products that underpins the projection of costs set out in the Cost Report is commercially sensitive information that would potentially jeopardise the recently commenced supplier dialogues for the procurement of services required to operate the National Identity Scheme.

The number of estimated passports to be issued in the year 2007-08, as reported in the IPS Business Plan, is 6.2 million.

Identity Cards: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the cost referred to in the Identity Cards Scheme Cost Report of November 2007 as common to passports and identity cards would be incurred in order to introduce biometric passports alone. [165049]

Meg Hillier: The latest six monthly Identity Cards Scheme Cost Report, published on 8 November 2007, sets out those elements of the cost estimates that relate specifically to passports, those specific to identity cards and those that are common to both. The cost of registering individuals for passports and ID cards is included in common costs because the same technology infrastructure and business processes will be used. In many cases, the same application will result in the issue of both a passport and an ID card.

The latest Cost Report may be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/publications-legislative.asp

I would refer the hon. Member to that report.

Since the merger of the Home Office identity cards programme and the UK Passport Service to create the Identity and Passport Service on 1 April 2006, projects to deliver biometric passports, identity cards and other improvements have been necessarily combined. As much of the functionality needed to implement identity cards is also required for the implementation of biometric passports, this is the most cost-effective way to deliver these initiatives.

Identity Cards: Post Offices

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the chief executive of the Identity and Passport Service on the role that post offices could play in the enrolment process for identity cards and biometric passports. [164246]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* The Home Secretary has regular discussions with the chief executive of the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) about many aspects of IPS business, including the rollout of the national identity scheme.

As set out in the Strategic Action Plan for the National Identity Scheme, the Government are keen to use existing assets and infrastructure, where appropriate, to deliver the scheme. The post office already acts as a partner organisation to IPS providing the Check and Send service for passport applications. No final decision has been made as yet regarding the infrastructure for the biometric enrolment process.

Mobile Phones: Theft

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crime numbers were issued by the police for *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen mobile phones in each of the last five years (i) in England and Wales and (ii) broken down by police force area. [165664]

Mr. McNulty: Information on crime numbers issued is not collected centrally. The Home Office collects statistics on offences recorded by the police but thefts of mobile phones cannot be separately identified from thefts of other items.

National Security

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish the findings of Lord West's study into security at crowded public places and sites of critical national infrastructure. [165656]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary's statement of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 44-45 WS which sets out the main conclusions of the Lord West's review of protective security, a copy of which has been placed in the House Library.

Passport: Interviews

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the passport interview office at Chandlery, Berwick-upon-Tweed, is expected to open. [162919]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* The Identity and Passport Service is in the course of establishing 69 offices in the UK to interview adult first time passport applicants. The Berwick-upon-Tweed interview office is scheduled to open in January 2008 at Units 3 and 4, The Chandlery, The Quayside, Berwick Upon Tweed, TD15 1HE.

Personation: Eastern Region

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk reported being a victim of identity fraud in each of the last five years. [162586]

Meg Hillier: The information requested is not available centrally because there is no single offence of identity fraud. Instead there is a range of criminal offences, including under the Identity Cards Act 2006 and the Fraud Act 2006, which cover fraudulent activity that can include elements of identity fraud. Statistics on the number of reported cases under these provisions will be incorporated into recorded crime figures and published in the normal way.

Police Patrolling

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests were made by police officers in England and Wales while on foot patrol in each of the last five years; and what percentage of arrests made in England and Wales this represents. [165668]

Mr. McNulty: The arrests collection undertaken by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform only provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, drugs offences etc. More detailed data about circumstances behind arrests do not form part of this collection.

Police Stations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in the Metropolitan police area in each year since 2002. [164542]

Mr. McNulty: The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the Chief Officer, in this case the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Airports

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which airports within the UK have a regular police presence; and which police authorities are required to provide that presence in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [166147]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The uniformed police presence at airports in the UK is for local negotiation between the airport operator and the relevant police force. The nine airports designated under the Aviation Security Act 1982 have a permanent uniformed police presence, the cost of which the airport operator is required to pay. Those airports are London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow International, Glasgow Prestwick, Birmingham and Manchester. At non-designated airports, they either have a dedicated police presence or the police attend when there is an operational need to do so. These costs are funded wholly or partly by the police authority in which that airport is located, or by other means, for example, voluntary contributions by the airport operator.

The system of designation and the cost of policing airports was raised in the Independent Review of Airport Policing 2006. The Secretary of State for Transport and I are currently reviewing the process to enable the recovery of the agreed associated policing costs from airport operators at all airports that have a permanent policing presence.

In addition, there is a Special Branch presence at most airports. Those police officers are from the relevant local police force and a contribution towards the costs in England and Wales is provided by the Home Office or, for airports in Scotland, the Scottish Government.

Prison Accommodation: London Airports

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police and *(b)* immigration holding cells there were at each London airport in each of the last five years. [165809]

Mr. McNulty: Provision of cells by the police is a matter for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan police and the respective chief constables. However, I understand that in all cases local police stations are used and there are no cells in the airport terminals.

The Border and Immigration Agency has for the last five years used four holding rooms at Heathrow and one each at Luton, Stansted and London City airports. At Gatwick South Terminal there was one room in 2002. A second room was added in 2003. At the North Terminal there is one room plus a "family" room that can be used as a holding room. People who are detained for short periods under the Immigration Acts or are being removed from the United Kingdom are held in these holding rooms.

Respect Task Force

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the degree to which the Respect Task Force has met its objectives; and if she will make a statement. [164804]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Respect Task Force worked across Government and set out an ambitious programme of work to build a modern culture of respect, setting out its objectives in the Respect Action Plan published in January 2006.

Through the Respect programme, we introduced new approaches to tackle the root causes of antisocial behaviour. Key commitments in the Government's Respect Action Plan have now been met and mainstreamed locally.

Independent evaluation of the Government's strategy show that it is working well. The National Audit Office study (2006) showed that the powers available were successful at stopping antisocial behaviour. Public perceptions of antisocial behaviour being a problem locally are down as shown in the British Crime Survey and the Local Government User Satisfaction Survey 2006-07.

The Government are committed to building on the excellent progress made across the country, working with local authorities and the police to tackle the problems on the ground but also to deal with the root causes through early intervention and prevention.

Terrorism

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in taking decisions on proscription of organisations under counter-terrorism legislation, she takes account of whether other countries proscribe such organisations. [165193]

Mr. McNulty: The Terrorism Act 2000 provides that the Secretary of State may exercise her power to proscribe an organisation only if she believes that it is "concerned in terrorism." If this legal test is met, there are a further five factors which the Secretary of State will have reference to when deciding whether or not to exercise her discretion to proscribe the organisation. These five factors are:

(1) The nature and scale of an organisation's activities

(2) The specific threat that it poses to the United Kingdom

(3) The specific threat that it poses to British nationals overseas

(4) The extent of the organisation's presence in the United Kingdom

(5) The need to support other members of the international community in the global fight against terrorism.

The position of other countries, including whatever action those countries may have taken against the organisation in question (including proscription), may, if relevant, form part of the information which the Secretary of State considers under the fifth factor noted above.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

COBRA

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* date and *(b)* purpose of each COBRA meeting chaired by the Prime Minister and held since May 1997 was. [164770]

Gillian Merron: As is the case with information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet committees, including the number of meetings held and topics discussed, details about COBRA meetings are generally not disclosed.

Departmental Public Consultations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what opinion polls his Department has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164955]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office has not centrally conducted any opinions polls of the public since 27 June 2007.

The Cabinet Office has centrally conducted a number of internal surveys since March 2007 to gather staff views at no cost to the public purse.

Information on individual management units conducting their own opinion polls of either the public or of staff can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which buildings occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to disabled people. [164014]

Gillian Merron: Of the 14 buildings occupied by the Cabinet Office, eight are considered to be fully accessible and six are considered to be not fully accessible to disabled people. Most of the not fully accessible buildings are listed. Accessibility improvements are being implemented as part of an ongoing rolling programme of work, involving English Heritage and the local planning authority as necessary in the context of making adaptations to the grade 1 and 2 listed buildings.

Dorneywood

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether *(a)* electronic and *(b)* hard copy guidance, in addition to the Ministerial Code, has been circulated by the Government on the use of Dorneywood by Departments and Ministers, other than the Chancellor of the Exchequer as the official resident. [164216]

Gillian Merron: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1077W.

Copies of the ministerial code are available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members and also on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministerial_code_current.pdf

Public Bodies: Internet

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans the Cabinet Office has to prevent public authorities from using the .gov.uk domain name if they do not meet accessibility standards. [164308]

Gillian Merron: The Government's objective is to ensure that all public sector websites are accessible. To encourage wider access to public services online and to help Departments fulfil their duty under the Disability Discrimination Act, the Government set minimum standards for public sector website accessibility—whether or not they use the .gov.uk domain name.

The Government also set the policies for the registration of .gov.uk domain names. Options for ensuring that all websites with .gov.uk domain names meet the Government's minimum accessibility standards were included in draft guidance for consultation ("Delivering Inclusive Websites" (TG102)). We will be considering responses to the consultation to assess the most effective means of meeting the overall objective of ensuring accessibility.

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff have been disciplined for smoking inside the premises of the Cabinet Office. [164970]

Gillian Merron: No staff have been disciplined for smoking inside the premises of the Cabinet Office.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Expenditure

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how much the Electoral Commission spent on *(a)* foreign travel and foreign subsistence and *(b)* hospitality in 2006-07. [164219]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that, in 2006-07, expenditure on overseas travel and subsistence was £5,942 and on hospitality £61,545. This latter figure includes hospitality to external guests; refreshments for stakeholder meetings and working lunches; and the organisation by the Commission of conferences and public meetings.

Public and Commercial Services Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission if he will place in the Library a copy of the recognition agreement between the Electoral Commission and the Public and Commercial Services Union. [164217]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has done so.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Expenditure: DfID

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 92WS, on Departmental Expenditure (DfID), if he will make a statement on the transfer from his Department's budget of £1 million to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in relation to the London 2012 International Sport Development Initiative. [166281]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID recognises the potential to promote development through sport as a way of improving the lives of young people in developing countries. DFID has therefore agreed to work with UNICEF and others on the London 2012 Sport Development Initiative. DFID is providing £1 million to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport this financial year and a further £1 million next financial year by way of contribution to the initiative. This funding will go towards the implementation of pilot programmes in Zambia, Brazil, Palau, India and Azerbaijan.

Departmental Flexible Working

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours (i) in the Department and (ii) the Executive agencies for which the Department is responsible. [164332]

Mr. Malik: DFID is committed to improving the work/life balance of its staff, and provides a wide range of flexible work pattern options.

On joining DFID, and at any subsequent time, all staff have the option to request to join our Flexible Working Hours Scheme (FWHS). Agreement to this is made by line managers, taking into account the operating needs of their unit. Options include home and remote working, term-time working, reduced hours, compressed hours and flexible start and finish times.

We do not retain a central register of staff who have asked to join our FWHS, nor of all those who are working under those arrangements. In our recent Management Survey, 84 per cent. of DFID staff strongly believed their line managers actively support flexible working.

DFID does not have responsibility for any Executive agencies.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what opinion polls the Department has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164947]

Mr. Malik: Since 27 June 2007, DFID has conducted one opinion survey of the UK public and one survey of staff. Details are as follows:

Public survey

Delivered by Taylor Nelson Sofres (TNS), contracted via the Central Office of Information (COI) following a tender process.

Purpose: assess public understanding of poverty in developing countries and awareness of the Millennium Development Goals and measures to reach them.

Overall cost: £47,500 + VAT (including COI fees).

Staff survey

DFID Management Survey 2007 was managed in-house.

Purpose: to help continually monitor and improve how DFID is managed.

Overall cost: Staff and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) resources were all in-house and so can not be disaggregated without disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in his Department and its agencies. [163242]

Mr. Malik: DFID employs eight full-time equivalent staff who are responsible for a range of marketing and communication activities. Their work incorporates the production of publications, a departmental magazine, work on commissioning audience research, support to communications officers in countries outside of the UK and, where necessary, work related to brand management. There is not one person with sole responsibility for brand management.

Forced Labour: Children

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made in helping *(a)* reduce and *(b)* prevent child labour in (i) Asia, (ii) Africa and (iii) Latin America. [165150]

Mr. Malik: DFID is helping to reduce and prevent child labour by tackling the underlying poverty that is at the root of the problem. Our support to national governments enables them to create alternative livelihood opportunities for families and increase access to appropriate, good quality education for all children. In addition DFID is supporting a number of targeted programmes through UN bodies and civil society organisations. Examples include:

i. In Asia we have committed over £5 million to the International Labour Organisation's Elimination of Child Labour Programme in Andhra Pradesh. This is helping children leave work and get into school, along-side supporting new income generating programmes for their parents.

ii. In Africa we are providing £120 million this year to support the Government of Tanzania's National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction in which child labour has been identified as a key poverty challenge. We are working with UNICEF in 13 countries to support orphans and vulnerable children to access education and to protect them from abuse including harmful child labour. We also supported their work to disarm, demobilise and reintegrate former child soldiers.

iii. In Latin America DFID is supporting the work of non-governmental organisations in the region, including over £400,000 to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA UK) who are helping to reduce the number of working children in Lima, Peru.

UN High Commission for Refugees

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* vaccination, *(b)* treatment services and *(c)* complementary livestock feeding has been undertaken by the UN High Commission for Refugees and its implementing partners in 2007. [165440]

Mr. Malik: UNHCR is not able at this stage to provide 2007 data on vaccination programmes and treatment services. Data are currently being collated for publication in UNHCR's Global Report 2007 which will be published in March next year. UNHCR has no complementary livestock feeding programmes.

The target population of UNHCR and its implementing partners for vaccination programmes and treatment services are refugee children under five. UNHCR has established an annual programme of immunisation against eight major childhood diseases and provides free treatment and health services through its implementing partners. Where possible, it also provides local health services in fourteen countries in Africa and Asia.

With the exception of Chad and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), UNHCR's immunisation and treatment services reached 90 per cent. of the target population in 2006. Expectations are that coverage will be maintained or increased in 2007.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Convictions: Racial Violence

Jo Swinson: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* charges and *(b)* convictions there have been for the offence of incitement to religious hatred. [166334]

The Solicitor-General: The relevant provisions of the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 were only implemented on 1 October 2006. So far, no one has been charged under these provisions and, accordingly, there have been no convictions.

Crown Prosecution Service: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General when HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) last produced a report on the effectiveness of the Crown Prosecution Service in Essex; under what legislation HMCPSI produce effectiveness reports; what recent representations she has received on the effectiveness of the Crown Prosecution Service in Essex; and if she will make a statement. [165740]

The Solicitor-General: HM Crown Prosecution Service conducted an Area Effectiveness Inspection of CPS Essex in January 2007 and was pleased to take into account the evidence contributed by the hon. Member. Such inspections are carried out as part of HMCPSI's functions under section 2(1)(a) of the Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate Act 2000. The report was published on 7 August 2007 and HM Chief Inspector wrote to the hon. Member enclosing a copy.

HMCPSI has received no representations since then about the performance of the CPS in Essex but made a further visit to Essex in October as part of its series of Overall Performance Assessments. That report is currently being prepared and is expected to be published in January or February 2008.

Prosecutions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions for criminal offences have been pursued in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* England by the Crown Prosecution Service in each of the last two years, broken down by offence. [165738]

The Solicitor-General: I have placed in the Library a table which shows the number of defendants whose case was completed by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in each of the last two years in England (excluding Wales) and in CPS Essex.

The majority of cases completed by the CPS are allocated to one of 12 broad categories indicating the principal offence with which the defendant was charged. The table shows the total number of cases prosecuted; together with the number and proportion of cases falling into each of these broad offence categories. The comparatively small number of cases that are not assigned a broad offence category include those that are administratively finalised, for example, those in which the defendant has died or cannot be traced before the case is concluded.

The table also shows the volume and the proportion of cases resulting in a conviction and in an unsuccessful outcome, in total and for each of the principal offence categories.

Sentencing

Mike Penning: To ask the Solicitor-General in how many cases she asked the Crown Prosecution Service to send her trial papers because of concern about the leniency of a sentence in each month of the last five years. [165683]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General's Office publishes annual statistics on unduly lenient sentence references on its website www.attorneygeneral.gsi.gov.uk. The statistics are recorded by reference to each calendar year and are not broken down by individual month.

The Law Officers receive requests to review sentences as possible unduly lenient sentences from the prosecution authority, Members of Parliament, victims and members of the public.

The following table shows the numbers of offenders whose sentences were considered as possible unduly lenient sentences by the Law Officers in each of the last five years for which full statistics have been published.

	Offenders considered by the law officers
2002	290
2003	270
2004	398
2005	352
2006	359

Mike Penning: To ask the Solicitor-General how many unduly lenient sentences she referred to the Court of Appeal in each of the last five years. [165684]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General's Office publishes annual statistics on unduly lenient sentence references on its website

www.attorneygeneral.gsi.gov.uk.

The following table shows the number of offenders whose sentences were referred to the Court of Appeal as unduly lenient, the number of offenders whose references were subsequently withdrawn and the number of offenders who were therefore brought before the Court of Appeal in each of the last five years for which full statistics have been published.

	Offenders referred to Court of Appeal	*Withdrawn references*	*Offenders brought to the Court of Appeal*
2002	148	9	139
2003	102	6	96
2004	159	22	137
2005	127	19	108
2006	160	16	144

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [164169]

Mr. Woodward: The following table illustrates the Northern Ireland Office's assets (excluding its Agencies and Executive NDPBs) which are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11.

£000

Description of asset	*Net book value (NBV) at 30 September 2007*	*2007-08 Actuall expected revenue*	*[3]2008-09 to 2010-11 expected revenue*
Surplus land	64,498	65,96[illegible]	0
Office building and land	4,800	0	4,800
Residential properties [1]	6,552	[2]3,308	[3]4,059

[1] The addresses of residential properties have not been provided for security reasons.
[2] The expected revenue of residential properties disposed of in 2007-08 is based on the proceeds received to date, plus the forecast receipts for the remainder of the year.
[3] For the planned disposals in the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 it is assumed that assets will be sold at their net book value. The Department is still finalising details of the actual year each property will be sold in, a breakdown of these annual figures will be provided in the Department's CSR07 Asset management Strategy which is due to be published in December 2007.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what efficiency savings projects his Department put in place under the Spending Review 2004 targets; on what date each was initiated; how much each was expected to contribute to the target; how much was saved by each; and if he will make a statement. [164152]

Mr. Woodward: Details of the Northern Ireland Office's efficiency savings in relation to Spending Review 2004 can be seen in the NIO's Efficiency Technical Note. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Repairs and Maintenance

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent by his Department on renovation and refurbishment of its properties in each of the last five years. [164368]

Mr. Woodward: The NIO does not record expenditure under the specific headings of renovation and refurbishment, and so to provide this information could be done only at disproportionate cost. I can provide expenditure on all maintenance and minor works costs which will include renovation and refurbishment. The figures therefore include renovation and refurbishment expenditure, including fit out costs of new accommodation, plus expenditure on reactive and planned maintenance, as well as health and safety maintenance, repairs to mechanical and electrical systems and associated fees.

The rise in expenditure over the last two years is due to fit out costs for new accommodation for the Public Prosecution Service as a result of the roll out of a regional office network.

	£000
2006-07	5,339
2005-06	4,003
2004-05	3,276
2003-04	2,130
2002-03	2,128

Departmental Wines

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to ensure that English wine is served exclusively or at the request of guests at meals, parties and receptions hosted by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [164295]

Mr. Woodward: All public procurement procedures must comply with the EC Treaty. The key principles of the treaty, from a public procurement point of view, are the free movement of goods and services, and non-discrimination on the grounds of nationality. This legislation is designed to ensure that all public procurement across the European Union is fair, transparent and non-discriminatory.

This means that my Department cannot specify that it will only buy goods (e.g. wine) from a particular country or locality, as that would discriminate against producers from other EU member states.

However, the Government are committed to increasing opportunities for small and local suppliers to tender for contracts, thus enhancing competition and securing better value for money. My Department has done this by advertising its requirements, both locally and in accordance with the European Directives, thus offering all potential suppliers, large and small, the opportunity to compete for the Department's business.

Draft Marine Bill

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the likely impact of the provision of the Draft Marine Bill on Northern Ireland. [164401]

Paul Goggins: My officials have been kept informed as to how the Marine Bill will affect Northern Ireland. Officials in the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland are also closely involved in the development of the Bill. If the Bill seeks to legislate on matters that are the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration, the consent of the Northern Ireland Assembly would have to be sought.

Drugs: Smuggling

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Police Service of Northern Ireland on reducing levels of drug trafficking in Northern Ireland. [164398]

Paul Goggins: Tackling the illegal drugs trade in Northern Ireland is a key priority for the Government. In my role as chair of the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) I have regular meetings with the Police Service of Northern Ireland and other law enforcement agencies to consider ways of dealing with this problem.

The OCTF also has a Drugs Expert subgroup, which meets on a quarterly basis to consider proactive ways of dealing with the supply and trafficking of illegal drugs. This is chaired by a senior police officer and its membership is comprised of representatives from all of the law enforcement agencies as well as the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

There have been some notable successes: from April to September this year, drugs with an estimated street value of £1.6 million have been seized by the police; also, 1,726 people have been arrested for drug-related offences in 2006-07, an increase of almost 20 per cent. over the previous year.

Hazelwood School: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* construction timetable is of the proposed new wall at Hazelwood Integrated Primary School; and if he will make a statement. [164312]

Paul Goggins: The estimated cost of the fence is £202,000.

Preparatory ground work is now finished and the fence should be completed by mid January 2008.

The decision taken to erect a security fence at Hazelwood Integrated Primary School was based on a PSNI security assessment. The on-going requirement for the fence will be subject to regular review.

Prisons

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cells in the prison estate in Northern Ireland are not in use; and if he will make a statement. [164389]

Paul Goggins: As of 13 November, the Northern Ireland Prison Service had a total of 299 vacant cells—Maghaberry 79, Magilligan 102, Hydebank Wood Male 97 (of which 72 are being refurbished) and Female 21 cells.

The Magilligan figure includes a new 50 room unit which is due to be finally commissioned very shortly.

As much of the accommodation is designated for specific categories of prisoner, this limits the flexibility in allocating prisoners to the available vacant cells, for example, males aged over 23 are not housed in Hydebank Wood and integrated prisoners do not share landings with separated prisoners in Maghaberry.

Sexual Offences

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were convicted of sexual offences against children in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years; and what sentence was imposed in each case where proceedings are complete. [165142]

Paul Goggins: Northern Ireland court proceedings and sentencing data sources do not include victim information in relation to the commission of an offence. It is therefore possible only to provide the number of convictions for those offences which, by their definition, identify a child as the victim. The following tables document the number convicted for such offences, the method of disposal and average custodial sentence length.

Data cover the calendar years 2000 to 2005 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; therefore only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Number of convictions and method of disposal and average custodial sentence length for sexual offences against children for the year 2000

Offence	*Convictions*	*Custodial sentence (ave. sent. in months)*	*Suspended sentence*	*Supervision in the community*	*Conditional discharge*	*Absolute discharge*	*Fine*
Gross indecency with child	9	8 (18)	0	1	0	0	0
Buggery with boy under 16 years	1	1 (24)	0	0	0	0	0
Buggery with girl	1	1 (84)	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	3	3 (23)	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	6	2 (5)	3	1	0	0	0
Incest by man with female under 14 years	2	2 (90)	0	0	0	0	0
Indecent assault on female child	23	13 (20)	6	3	0	0	1
Indecent assault on male child	7	5 (20)	1	1	0	0	0
Distributing indecent photographs of children	4	2 (8)	0	1	0	0	1

Number of convictions and method of disposal and average custodial sentence length for sexual offences against children for the year 2000

Offence	Convictions	Custodial sentence (ave. sent. in months)	Suspended sentence	Supervision in the community	Conditional discharge	Absolute discharge	Fine
Possessing indecent photographs of child(ren)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Possessing indecent photographs of child(ren) with a view to distribution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taking indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Copying indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Publishing advertisement relating to indecent photographs of children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Making indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	57	37 (24)	11	7	0	0	2

Number of convictions and method of disposal and average custodial sentence length for sexual offences against children for the year 2001

Offence	Convictions	Custodial sentence (ave. sent. in months)	Suspended sentence	Supervision in the community	Conditional discharge	Absolute discharge	Fine
Gross indecency with child	1	1 (18)	0	0	0	0	0
Buggery with boy under 16 years	2	1 (24)	0	1	0	0	0
Buggery with girl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	1	1 (108)	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	3	1 (12)	1	1	0	0	0
Incest by man with female under 14 years	1	1 (84)	0	0	0	0	0
Indecent assault on female child	8	6 (15)	2	0	0	0	0
Indecent assault on male child	2	2 (12)	0	0	0	0	0
Distributing indecent photographs of children	2	1 (14)	0	1	0	0	0
Possessing indecent photographs of child(ren)	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Possessing indecent photographs of child(ren) with a view to distribution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taking indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	2	1 (84)	0	1	0	0	0
Copying indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Publishing advertisement relating to indecent photographs of children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Making indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	24	15 (30)	4	5	0	0	0

Number of convictions and method of disposal and average custodial sentence length for sexual offences against children for the year 2002

Offence	Convictions	Custodial sentence (ave. sent. in months)	Suspended sentence	Supervision in the community	Conditional discharge	Absolute discharge	Fine
Gross indecency with child	4	2 (14)	0	2	0	0	0
Buggery with boy under 16 years	1	1 (72)	0	0	0	0	0

Number of convictions and method of disposal and average custodial sentence length for sexual offences against children for the year 2002

Offence	Convictions	Custodial sentence (ave. sent. in months)	Suspended sentence	Supervision in the community	Conditional discharge	Absolute discharge	Fine
Buggery with girl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	1	1 (48)	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	1	1 (9)	0	0	0	0	0
Incest by man with female under 14 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indecent assault on female child	2	2 (15)	0	0	0	0	0
Indecent assault on male child	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Distributing indecent photographs of children	2	1 (36)	1	0	0	0	0
Possessing indecent photographs of child(ren)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possessing indecent photographs of child(ren) with a view to distribution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taking indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	4	2 (8)	0	2	0	0	0
Copying indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Publishing advertisement relating to indecent photographs of children	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Making indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	16	10 (24)	2	4	0	0	0

Number of convictions and method of disposal and average custodial sentence length for sexual offences against children for the year 2003

Offence	Convictions	Custodial sentence (ave. sent. in months)	Suspended sentence	Supervision in the community	Conditional discharge	Absolute discharge	Fine
Gross indecency with child	6	5 (28)	0	1	0	0	0
Buggery with boy under 16 years	1	1 (84)	0	0	0	0	0
Buggery with girl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	1	1 (60)	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	5	0	3	1	1	0	0
Incest by man with female under 14 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indecent assault on female child	3	3 (16)	0	0	0	0	0
Indecent assault on male child	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Distributing indecent photographs of children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possessing indecent photographs of child(ren)	3	0	1	0	0	0	2
Possessing indecent photographs of child(ren) with a view to distribution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taking indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	9	1 (24)	3	5	0	0	0
Copying indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Publishing advertisement relating to indecent photographs of children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Number of convictions and method of disposal and average custodial sentence length for sexual offences against children for the year 2003

Offence	Convictions	Custodial sentence (ave. sent. in months)	Suspended sentence	Supervision in the community	Conditional discharge	Absolute discharge	Fine
Making indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	29	11 (32)	8	7	1	0	2

Number of convictions and method of disposal and average custodial sentence length for sexual offences against children for the year 2004

Offence	Convictions	Custodial sentence (ave. sent. in months)	Suspended sentence	Supervision in the community	Conditional discharge	Absolute discharge	Fine
Gross indecency with child	3	3 (17)	0	0	0	0	0
Buggery with boy under 16 years	6	4 (107)	2	0	0	0	0
Buggery with girl	1	1 (24)	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	4	3 (20)	1	0	0	0	0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
Incest by man with female under 14 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indecent assault on female child	3	2 (18)	1	0	0	0	0
Indecent assault on male child	4	2 (48)	2	0	0	0	0
Distributing indecent photographs of children	1	1 (12)	0	0	0	0	0
Possessing indecent photographs of child(ren)	1	1 (6)	0	0	0	0	0
Possessing indecent photographs of child(ren) with a view to distribution	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Taking indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	8	2 (7)	1	5	0	0	0
Copying indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	2	1 (12)	0	1	0	0	0
Publishing advertisement relating to indecent photographs of children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Making indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	7	4 (9)	0	2	1	0	0
Total	43	24 (30)	8	10	1	0	0

Number of convictions and method of disposal and average custodial sentence length for sexual offences against children for the year 2005

Offence	Convictions	Custodial sentence (Ave. sent. in months)	Suspended sentence	Supervision in the community	Conditional discharge	Absolute discharge	Fine
Gross indecency with child	6	3 (14)	2	1	0	0	0
Buggery with boy under 16 years	1	1 (96)	0	0	0	0	0
Buggery with girl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14	3	3 (17)	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17	4	0	2	2	0	0	0
Incest by man with female under 14 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indecent assault on female child	18	13 (82)	1	3	0	0	1
Indecent assault on male child	5	3 (45)	2	0	0	0	0
Distributing indecent photographs of children	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

Number of convictions and method of disposal and average custodial sentence length for sexual offences against children for the year 2005

Offence	Convictions	Custodial sentence (Av. sent, in months)	Suspended sentence	Supervision in the community	Conditional discharge	Absolute discharge	Fine
Possessing indecent photographs of child(ren)	2	1 (18)	1	0	0	0	0
Possessing indecent photographs of child(ren) with a view to distribution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taking indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Copying indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Publishing advertisement relating to indecent photographs of children	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Making indecent photograph or pseudo photographs of children	10	5 (14)	0	4	0	1	0
Total	51	29 (51)	10	10	0	1	1

TREASURY

Absenteeism: Government Departments

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last five years. [163694]

Angela Eagle: There have been no such cases within the last five years.

Alcoholic Drinks: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many alcohol-attributable deaths there were in *(a)* each London borough and *(b)* the Greater London area in (i) each of the last four financial years and (ii) 2007-08. [166499]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated 20 November 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many alcohol-attributable deaths there were in (a) each London borough and (b) the Greater London area in (i) each of the last four financial years and (ii) 2007-08. I am replying in her absence. (166499)

The attached table provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in (a) each London borough and (b) Greater London for the financial years 2002-03 to 2005-06. The latest year of data available is 2006, so we are unable to provide data for 2007-08.

Table 1: number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1], London boroughs and Greater London[2,3], financial years 2002-03 to 2005-06[4]

Deaths (persons)

Area	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
City of London	1	0	2	0
Barking and Dagenham	19	19	18	18
Barnet	25	29	24	19
Bexley	23	27	23	21
Brent	31	41	23	36
Bromley	20	27	24	28
Camden	41	33	25	25
Croydon	38	27	35	24
Ealing	34	40	45	35
Enfield	12	24	30	21
Greenwich	25	25	24	29
Hackney	17	22	25	25
Hammersmith and Fulham	25	19	35	33
Haringey	23	16	30	29
Harrow	10	12	18	22
Havering	16	23	18	15
Hillingdon	25	21	29	42
Hounslow	28	40	41	25
Islington	32	26	22	15
Kensington and Chelsea	22	17	10	14
Kingston upon Thames	25	17	19	11
Lambeth	30	29	34	32
Lewisham	29	40	29	30
Merton	20	22	19	12
Newham	30	29	33	35
Redbridge	18	24	11	30
Richmond upon Thames	17	32	22	24
Southwark	40	29	32	28
Sutton	9	16	12	15
Tower Hamlets	17	23	26	18
Waltham Forest	20	19	17	20
Wandsworth	36	22	31	22
Westminster	36	30	27	30
Greater London	892	920	905	783

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the box below.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Figures for Greater London are equal to the total for all London boroughs, for each financial year.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each financial year.

Box 1. Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Buildings: Cabinet Office

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* total area and *(b)* vacant space for the (i) Cabinet Office's and (ii) Prime Minister's Offices as recorded on the Electronic Property Information Mapping Service database was in (i) 1997 or the earliest date thereafter for which figures are available and (ii) the latest time for which figures are available. [165551]

Angela Eagle: In 2005-06 the total area for the Cabinet Office estate (including the Prime Minister's Offices) recorded on the Electronic Property Information Mapping Service (e-PIMS) database was 161, 673.2 m^2. The amount of vacant space recorded on e-PIMS for the Cabinet Office estate in 2005-06 was 676 m^2.

The total area currently recorded on e-PIMS for the Cabinet Office estate (including the Prime Minister's Offices) is 153,794.8 m^2. The amount of vacant space for the Cabinet Office estate currently recorded on e-PIMS is 4,635.4 m^2.

Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department plans to move any of its offices to Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. [166560]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury Group published its plans to relocate posts from London and the Southeast in its Efficiency Technical Notice, published in December 2006:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/c/1/hmt_efficiencytechnicalnote_141206.pdf

Death

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many unnatural deaths have taken place in the UK in each of the last five years. [166494]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls with the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 November 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many unnatural deaths have taken place in the UK in each of the last five years. (166494)

The latest available data for the UK are for 2005. As there is no National Statistics definition of unnatural deaths, the table below contains the number of deaths from diseases and the number from all injury and poisoning in the UK from 2001 to 2005.

Number of deaths by cause, United Kingdom, 2001 to 2005[1]

	Deaths from diseases[2]	*Deaths from injury and poisoning*[3]
2001	582,733	19,535
2002	587,026	19,190
2003	591,635	19,553
2004	563,514	19,568
2005	563,279	19,384

[1] Figures for England and Wales are of deaths occurring in each calendar year. Figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland are of deaths registered in each calendar year.
[2] Defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes A00-R99.
[3] Defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes V01-Y89.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the guidance set out in the model contract and code of conduct for special advisers, what *(a)* notices of external employment and *(b)* other conflicts of interest were declared by his Department's former special adviser, the right hon. Member for Normanton (Ed Balls), between 2 May 1997 and 1 July 2004. [164854]

Angela Eagle: Special advisers are employed under terms and conditions set out in the "Code of Conduct" for Special Advisers. The rules for civil servants, including special advisers, who wish to take up other employment in addition to their civil service duties are set out in Section 4.3 of the "Civil Service Management Code". The principles on conflicts of interest are set out in Section 4.1

Departmental Policy

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which new policy priorities received strategic reserve allocations in the core Treasury in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [165495]

Angela Eagle: The Strategic Reserve has been used by the Treasury since 2005-06 as a means of internally funding non-recurrent costs, including new policy priorities. The main new policy priorities that were funded from the Strategic Reserve in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are set out in the 2006 Departmental Report, paragraph C6 on page 107, and the 2006-07 Annual Report and Accounts, paragraph 7.51 on page 98. Similar information in relation to 2007-08 will be published in the 2007-08 Annual Report and Accounts. The Treasury's departmental reports are available from:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/departmental_reports/deptreport_index.cfm.

Departmental Procurement

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to page 7 of HM Treasury Efficiency Technical Note (December 2006), what value and percentage of directorate purchases were made through central non-pay contracts in each year since 1998; and if he will make a statement. [165497]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is as follows.

Financial year	*Non pay spend (£ million)*	*Spend through OGCbuying.solutions central contracts (£ million)*	*Percentage*
2004-05	43.74	1.660	3.8
2005-06	46.56	2.419	5.2
2006-07	44.92	3.177	7.1

The data for the financial years prior to 2004-05 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* contractor and *(b)* temporary staff headcount was in the (i) core Treasury, (ii) Office of Government Commerce, (iii) Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions and (iv) Debt Management Office; how much was spent on (A) agency staff and (B) consultants by each body in each year; and if he will make a statement. [165326]

Angela Eagle: Information on staff numbers and costs is published in the Treasury's Annual Report and Accounts, available from

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/departmental_reports/deptreport_index.cfm

showing data for the core Treasury as well as for the Treasury Group consolidating the Office of Government Commerce and the Debt Management Office. Chapter 7 of the Annual Report and Accounts shows spending on consultants. The Debt Management Office and OGCbuying.solutions separately publish their own accounts, available from

http://www.dmo.gov.uk/index.aspx?page=publications/Annual_Reports

and

http://www.ogcbuyingsolutions.gov.uk/information/information_corporate.asp

EU Budget

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in what financial year he expects the European Court of Auditors to be able to approve the European Union's accounts. [165626]

Kitty Ussher: The Government support the European Commission's objective to strive for a positive Statement of Assurance by 2009.

Financial Services

Mr. Heben: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what involvement Ministers had in the scenario testing of the effectiveness of the tripartite arrangements between his Department, the Bank of England and the Financial Services Authority. [163569]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The tripartite arrangements have been tested regularly over recent years. For public policy reasons details of the scenarios are not published where they cover financial stability events. Reports on these exercises can be found on the UK Financial Sector Continuity website

www.fsc.gov.uk.

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury participated in financial stability exercises in October 2005, November 2006 and March 2007. There has also been some ministerial participation in business continuity planning exercises. The Chancellor's and Economic Secretary to the Treasury participated in a joint US-UK 'exercise' in February 2007.

Immigrants: Republic of Ireland

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many citizens of the Republic of Ireland he estimates are resident in the UK; and what estimate he has made of the likely change in this figure over the next 10 years. [164969]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many citizens of the Republic of Ireland are resident in the UK; and the estimate of the likely change in this figure over the next 10 years. (164969)

At the time of the 2001 Census, 472,380 people in England and Wales gave their country of birth as Republic of Ireland. This figure has been extracted from 2001 Census Table KS05—Country of Birth.

Figures for Northern Ireland and Scotland can be found in the publications "Northern Ireland Census 2001 Key Statistics" and "Key Statistics for Council areas and Health Board areas" Scotland 2001, copies of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

There are no official projections of the population by nationality.

Immigration: Chipping Barnet

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of inward migration on economic activity in Chipping Barnet constituency over the last 10 years; [164622]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact of inward migration on the labour market in Chipping Barnet constituency over the last 10 years. [164698]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 November 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary questions on economic activity and the labour market in Chipping Barnet. (164622, 164698)

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the main summary indicator of economic activity in the UK. Because data collection, estimation and reporting are not structured according to demographic groups, the national accounts framework does not however make it possible to identify the direct contribution of immigrants to the measured levels of economic activity.

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics for labour supply indicators for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the total of "foreign born" and that people who are working but are above state pension age are not included.

When interpreting these figures, it is important to bear in mind that the LFS and APS are not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

The LFS estimates at this detailed level are only available consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003 and are not comparable with the estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release on 14 November 2007, which are based on latest population estimates.

The table attached, shows the numbers of employed, unemployed and economically active persons of working age who were not born in the UK and were resident in Chipping Barnet, for the 12 month periods ending in February for 2001 to 2004 from the annual LFS, and for the 12 month periods ending in March 2005, March 2006 and December 2006 from the APS (the January to December 2006 APS dataset is the most recent for which information on country of birth is currently available). The table also shows the numbers of non-UK born economically active persons as percentages of all economically active persons of working age, in the area. Data on country of birth are not available on annual LFS datasets before 2000.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. Estimates of change over time should be treated with particular caution.

Economic activity status of working age[1] non-UK born people in the Chipping Barnet constituency

Thousand

12 months ending	*Employment level*	*Unemployment level*	*Economically active*	*Non-UK born economically actives as percentage of all economically actives*
February 2001	10	1	11	21
February 2002	8	8	•	18
February 2003	7	7	•	17
February 2004	10	10	•	22
March 2005	15	3	18	36
March 2006	13	•	14	25
December 2006	11	1	13	27

[1] Includes males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59.
• Sample size too small to provide estimate.
Estimates are subject to sampling variability
Notes:
It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the LFS gives an undercount because :-
it excludes certain people who have not been resident in the UK for six months.
it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent.
it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc).
it is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months.
microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

Immigration: France

Colin Burgon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of levels of migration to the UK by individuals from French overseas departments and former French colonies since 2002. [166694]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the levels of migration to the UK by individuals from French overseas departments and former French colonies since 2002. (166694)

Estimates of immigration to the UK from French overseas departments and former French colonies can not be produced at this level of geographic detail.

Leukaemia

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were *(a)* diagnosed with and *(b)* died from leukaemia in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. [165402]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people have *(a)* been diagnosed with and *(b)* died from leukaemia in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. (165402)

The latest available figures for *(a)* newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2004 (United Kingdom). Numbers of cases of leukaemia for the years 1997 to 2004 for (i) Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency, (ii) South Tyneside County District, (iii) North East Government Office Region and (iv) United Kingdom are given in Table 1 below.

The latest available figures for *(b)* deaths are for the year 2006. Numbers of deaths from leukaemia for the years 1997 to 2006 for (i) Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency, (ii) South Tyneside County District, (iii) North East Government Office Region and (iv) United Kingdom are given in Table 2 below.

Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of leukaemia[1]: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district, North East government office region and United Kingdom, 1997-2004

	Jarrow	South Tyneside	North East	United Kingdom
1997	9	23	316	7,217
1998	15	30	296	7,125
1999	11	22	298	7,442
2000	3	15	299	7,332
2001	6	16	292	7,321
2002	6	13	273	7,210
2003	9	21	272	7,291
2004	3	7	214	7,000

[1] Cancer of the leukaemia is defined as code C91-C95 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
Source:
Office for National Statistics
Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit.
Scottish Cancer Registry, National Health Service in Scotland
Northern Ireland Cancer Registry

Table 2. Number of deaths where leukaemia,[1] was the underlying cause of death: Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside county district, North East government office region and United Kingdom, 1997-20062,5

	Jarrow	South Tyneside	North East	United Kingdom
1997	9	18	169	3,993
1998	5	16	191	3,975
1999	6	12	183	4,095
2000	8	15	178	3,981
2001	1	9	185	4,229
2002	2	8	186	4,334
2003	2	10	186	4,371
2004	2	7	167	4,265
2005	5	15	188	4,332
2006	7	7	199	4,311

[1] Cause of death for leukaemia was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 204-208 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C91-C95. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[3] Based on parliamentary constituency and local authority boundaries as of 2007.
[4] UK figures include deaths of non-residents in Scotland and Northern Ireland, but not in England and Wales.
[5] UK figures for 2006 include figures for Northern Ireland which are provisional until the publication of the Registrar General Annual Report in December 2007.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Migrant Workers: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of migrant workers there were in the Vale of York in each of the last three years. [165158]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on migrant workers in the vale of York constituency. (165158)

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics on employment for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The data for analysing migrant workers comes from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the total of "foreign born" and that people who are working but are above state pension age are not included.

When interpreting these figures, it is important to bear in mind that the APS is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

The APS estimates at this detailed level are only available consistent with population estimates published in February and March 2003 and are not comparable with the estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release on 14 November 2007, which are based on latest population estimates.

The table attached, shows the numbers of working age in employment who were not born in the UK and were resident in Vale of York, for the twelve month periods ending in March 2005, March 2006 and December 2006 (the January to December 2006 APS dataset is the most recent for which information on country of birth is currently available). The table also shows the numbers of non-UK born persons in employment as percentages of all persons of working age in employment, in the area.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, the sample sizes are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over time.

Number of non-UK born persons of working age[1] in employment in the Vale of York constituency

12 months ending	Employment level (Thousand)	Non-UK born persons in employment as percentage of all in employment
March 2005	1	1
March 2006	2	3
December 2006	3	5

[1] Includes males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59.
[2] Sample size too small to provide estimate.
Notes:
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability. 2. It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the LFS gives an undercount because: it excludes certain people who have not been resident in the UK for 6 months; it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent; it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc); it is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months; microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.
Source:
Annual Population survey.

Registration of Births Deaths Marriages and Civil Partnerships

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 224W, on registration of births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships, who is responsible for *(a)* drawing up the revised business plan and *(b)* approving it; who was responsible for (i) developing, (ii) approving the original business plan and (iii) discontinuing the original business plan; and if he will make a statement. [166115]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Registrar General, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated 20 November 2007:

The National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales has been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking who is responsible for *(a)* drawing up the revised business plan and *(b)* approving it; who was responsible for (i) developing the original business plan, (ii) approving the original business plan and (iii) discontinuing the original business plan. (166115).

Preparation of the business case is the responsibility of officials in the General Register Office within ONS. The initial business case was not discontinued but has required revision following the realisation that some of the assumptions underlying it were not correct. The revised business case will require fresh approval. Responsibility for business case approval within ONS depends on the project cost, but for a project of this size it rests with the ONS Executive Management Group, chaired by the National Statistician. As the GRO is to transfer to the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) from 1 April 2008, IPS will be consulted on the revised case as part of the process.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 224W, on registration of births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships, what his timetable is for *(a)* agreement of a viable revised business case and *(b)* confirmation of funding for the online version of the births, marriages and deaths register; and if he will make a statement. [166116]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts dated 20 November 2007:

The National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales has been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking what his timetable for *(a)* agreement of a viable revised business case and *(b)* confirmation of funding for the online version of the births, marriages and deaths register. I am replying in her absence. (166116)

We expect that the business case and funding issues will be considered by ONS Executive Management Group early in 2008 although the exact timing will depend on the outcome of prior consultation with the Identity and Passport Service.

Statistics Commission: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what grants in aid his Department made to the Statistics Commission in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [165287]

Angela Eagle: The outturn for the grant in aid to the Statistics Commission is published each year in the HM Treasury annual report as well as the Statistics Commission's annual report.

Tax Revenue

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue the Exchequer received from *(a)* fuel duty, *(b)* vehicle excise duty, *(c)* VAT on car sales, *(d)* VAT on fuel and *(e)* company car tax in each year since 1997. [165061]

Angela Eagle: Revenues received from these taxes can be found in the following sources:

(a) Hydrocarbon Oils Duty (or Fuel Duty)—table 3 of the Hydrocarbon Oils Bulletin published by HM Revenue and Customs contains revenues since 1997-98, available at:

www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil.

This includes both road fuels, i.e. petrol and diesel, and other fuels.

(b) Vehicle Excise Duty (Hydrocarbon Oils Duty)—the Office for National Statistics publishes revenues since 1993 (including Hydrocarbon Oils and VAT on fuel duty) at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/ssdataset.asp?vlnk=5688

(c) VAT on car sales—HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT from individual goods and services.

(d) VAT on fuel—The same applies as for *(c)*. Figures for VAT on fuel duty only are given in the table referred to in *(b)*. The amount of VAT on fuel duty actually received will be less, because businesses can recover such VAT as input tax. HM Revenue and Customs do not collect data on this aspect of VAT recovery.

(e) Company Car Tax (including Fuel Benefit Charge) is the income tax and national insurance liability for employee and director benefits-in-kind received as cars and fuel for private use and is published from 1999-2000 by HMRC. This can be found in table 4.5 at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/taxable_benefits/menu.htm.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Companies House

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what date the Registrar of Companies informed his Department that he would effect the necessary changes to Companies House systems and processes for the relevant sections of the Companies Act 2006 by 1 October 2009 and not 1 October 2008. [166487]

Mr. Timms: The Registrar of Companies advised that he could not be absolutely confident of delivering all necessary changes by October 2008. There have been a number of discussions between officials and Ministers on this issue, culminating in advice to Ministers on 19 October 2007.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reason the Registrar of Companies is not able to implement changes to Companies House systems and processes in relation to sections *(a)* 13-6, *(b)* 7-16, *(c)* 17-28, *(d)* 31-38, *(e)* 53-85, *(f)* 86-88, *(g)* 89-111, *(h)* 112-144, *(i)* 540-657, *(j)* 658-737, *(k)* 854-859, *(l)* 860-894, *(m)* 1000-1034, *(n)* 1040-1042, *(o)* 1044-1059, *(p)* 1060-1062, *(q)* 1064-1076, *(r)* 1081-1084, *(s)* 1093-1101, *(t)* 1108-1110, *(u)* 1112-1120, *(v)* 1182-1191 and *(w)* 1192-1208 of the Companies Act 2006 before 1 October 2008. [166489]

Mr. Timms: The Registrar of Companies has not advised that Companies House will not be able to implement the necessary changes by October 2008; rather, that he can not be absolutely confident of doing so. In the circumstances, the Government decided to announce a delay now so that companies can have certainty about the timetable for forthcoming changes.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in his Department and its agencies. [165231]

Mr. Thomas: My Department employs 14 full-time equivalent (FTE) members of staff in its strategic marketing team. This team has overall responsibility for corporate marketing and branding.

Companies House has 20 FTE working on marketing and sales, of which 0.5 FTE is responsible for branding.

The Insolvency Service has no members of staff working exclusively on marketing.

They estimate that less than 0.1 FTE of their communications' staff time is spent on branding.

Fireworks: Animal Welfare

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to review legislation on the maximum noise level permitted for publicly purchased fireworks with reference to their potential impact on animals. [164663]

Mr. Thomas: The maximum noise level is set in line with the harmonised European Standard (BS EN 14035). However the pyrotechnics directive which must be transposed into UK law by January 2010, requires that category 1 fireworks have a "negligible noise level", category 2 fireworks "a low noise level" and categories 3 and 4 a noise level that is "not harmful to human health". The European Commission have issued the European Standardisation body (CEN) with a mandate to produce standards that address all the relevant areas of the directive including noise levels. The new legislation will need to reflect the resulting standards.

Imports: Cyprus

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value was of *(a)* imports and *(b)* exports of (i) goods and (ii) services between (A) Cyprus and (B) Bermuda and the United Kingdom in each of the last 10 years for which information is available. [165725]

Mr. Thomas: The Office for National Statistics publishes data for UK trade with Cyprus in tables 9.3, 9.4 and 9.5 of the UK Balance of Payments "Pink Book 2007".

£ million

	UK imports of goods from Cyprus	*UK exports of goods to Cyprus*	*UK imports of services from Cyprus*	*UK exports of services to Cyprus*
1997	—	—	771	156
1998	—	—	802	126
1999	186	259	766	130
2000	208	311	885	147
2001	243	291	1,059	128
2002	247	272	977	213
2003	251	317	1,088	231
2004	205	522	1,084	328
2005	272	359	1,214	306
2006	1,725	969	1,346	320

Trade in goods with Cyprus in 2006 was affected by transactions associated with missing trader VAT fraud.

Figures for trade in goods with Cyprus are not available before 1999 on a balance of payments basis. Figures are available on a slightly different definition using Overseas Trade Statistics. The figures for 1997 and 1998 were:

£ million

	UK imports of goods from Cyprus	*UK exports of goods to Cyprus*
1997	122.4	265.4
1998	170.1	260.0

For data on UK trade with Bermuda, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 502W.

Internet: Fraud

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what means of complaint are available to UK residents about the sending of unsolicited and fraudulent email to UK email addresses. [162313]

Mr. Thomas: The Government introduced statutory controls in the UK on unsolicited spam e-mails under the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003, which came into force on 11 December 2003. They provide a first line of defence against the kind of unsolicited e-mails that many people object to where they have no knowledge of the advertiser or the products being marketed. The regulations require that unsolicited spam e-mails must not be sent to an individual

subscriber unless prior permission has been obtained or unless there is a previous relationship between the parties. The regulations can be enforced against an offending company or individual anywhere in the European Union (EU).

The Information Commissioner's Office has responsibility for the enforcement of the regulations controls in the UK on unsolicited spam e-mails and considers complaints about breaches. A breach of an enforcement notice is a criminal offence subject to a fine of up to £5,000 in a magistrate's court.

Motor Sports

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 130W, on motorsports, which elements of motorsport experience each of the members of the advisory board of Motorsport Development UK has. [166577]

Mr. Timms: Profiles of the members of the Motorsport Development UK Board, which include details of motorsport experience, are available at:

www.motorsportdevelopment.co.uk/profiles.cfm.

Overseas Trade: Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the total value was of UK trade with Iran in each of the last five financial years. [166141]

Mr. Thomas: According to HM Revenue and Customs data, direct visible exports to Iran from the UK for the calendar year 2006 were worth some £431 million. Direct visible exports for the previous four calendar years were as follows: 2005 (463 million); 2004 (£443 million); 2003 (£476 million); and 2002 (£401 million). Data for the current year is only available for the period January-August 2007 and shows that direct visible exports from the UK to Iran over this period were worth some £254 million.

Data kept by the Office for National Statistics shows that invisible exports from the UK to Iran were worth some £212 million in 2006. Figures for the preceding four years were as follows: 2005 (£204 million); 2004 (£236 million); 2003 (£206 million); and 2002 (£178 million). Data for 2007 is currently unavailable.

Figures for indirect British exports to Iran (i.e. via a third country) are not kept.

Overseas Trade: Israel

Mr. Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value was of *(a)* imports and *(b)* exports of (i) goods and (ii) services between Israel and the United Kingdom in each of the last 10 years for which information is available. [165729]

Mr. Thomas: The Office for National Statistics publishes data for UK trade with Israel in tables 9.3, 9.4 and 9.5 of the UK Balance of Payments "Pink Book 2007".

£ million

	UK imports of goods from Israel	UK exports of goods to Israel	UK imports of services from Israel	UK exports of services to Israel
1997	839	1,178	188	372
1998	875	1,079	207	308
1999	996	1,295	215	523
2000	1,025	1,516	266	441
2001	939	1,357	314	504
2002	880	1,428	202	422
2003	861	1,359	213	359
2004	923	1,389	221	401
2005	1,002	1,352	252	539
2006	968	1,308	296	400

Post Offices: Derbyshire

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many responses were received by the Post Office's consultation team before the closing date relating to each sub-post office proposed for closure in Derbyshire. [166010]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Post Offices: Rural Areas

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the role of post offices in rural communities. [166401]

Mr. McFadden: The Government recognise the important social and economic role that Post Office play in communities across the country and in rural areas in particular. We have introduced a range of access criteria that guarantees a nationwide network with additional safeguards for communities in rural areas.

Price Fixing: Dairy Products

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what investigations his Department is making into price fixing in the dairy industry; and what mechanisms he has put in place to prevent price fixing. [165099]

Mr. Thomas: Ensuring that markets operate freely and fairly is a matter for the independent competition authorities, rather than for Government. The Enterprise Act 2002 removed Ministers from competition decisions, placing them in the hands of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and the Competition Commission (CC).

The OFT has provisionally found that large supermarkets and dairy processors have, in breach of the Competition Act, colluded to increase the prices of dairy products. The OFT on 20 September issued a statement of objections, setting out its provisional findings, to Asda, Morrisons, Safeway, Sainsbury and

Tesco, as well as dairy processors Aria, Dairy Crest, Lactalis McLelland, The Cheese Company and Wiseman.

The OFT will not be in a position to decide if the law has been breached until it has reviewed all the responses received. The OFT has powers to impose sanctions if the Act has been breached.

Public Telephones

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many public telephone boxes are in use. [163420]

Mr. Timms: I understand from the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), that there are approximately 63,500 public telephone boxes in the UK.

Travel: Standards

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether gap year companies are subject to any form of registration procedure or checks in relation to standards for safety in their overseas operations. [165200]

Mr. McFadden: Gap year companies, which operate from premises in Great Britain and supply students to work for employers in the UK or overseas, will be subject to compliance with the Employment Agencies Act 1973 and associated Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses Regulations 2003. This legislation is enforced by this Department's Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate.

These companies are not subject to any form of registration but must abide by the conduct regulations which require employment agencies to obtain sufficient information from hiring companies before they introduce or supply workers, including;

> Any risks to health and safety known to the hirer and what steps the hirer has taken to prevent or control such risks; and
>
> Without prejudice to any of its duties in relation to health and safety at work, made all such enquiries, to ensure it would not be detrimental to the interests of the worker or hirer for the worker to fill the position the hirer seeks to fill.

In addition, where a worker is under 18 and the agency or hiring company has arranged free travel or payment of fares for the journey to the workplace, full details must be set out in writing. If the work does not start or upon it ending, the agency must arrange free return travel or obtain an undertaking from the hiring company that they will arrange free travel or pay the return fare.

If the hirer does not adhere to this undertaking the agency must arrange the return journey of the worker.

VAT: East of England

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses have *(a)* registered and *(b)* deregistered for VAT in (i) the East of England and (ii) Suffolk in each of the last five years. [166153]

Mr. Timms: The number of new VAT registrations and de-registrations in the East of England and Suffolk are shown in the table for 2002 to 2006, alongside the total number of VAT registered businesses at the start of each year. Data for registrations and de-registrations in 2007 will be available in autumn 2008.

Number of VAT registrations, de-registrations and VAT registered businesses in the East of England and Suffolk county

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Registrations	East of England	17,820	18,735	17,815	17,955	17,495	—
	Suffolk County	2,100	2,160	2,085	1,915	1,885	—
De-registrations	East of England	14,840	15,125	14,945	13,910	14,020	—
	Suffolk County	1,715	1,715	1,655	1,590	1,630	—
Stock of VAT registered businesses	East of England	179,500	182,480	186,090	188,955	193,005	196,480
	Suffolk County	22,520	22,905	23,345	23,775	24,105	24,360

Source:
Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations in 2006 available at http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

Although the number of registrations and de-registrations in both areas has fluctuated over the period, the total number of VAT registered businesses in Suffolk has increased from 22,520 at the start of 2002 to 24,360 at the start of 2007, an increase of 1,840 (8 per cent.). The total number of VAT registered businesses in the East of England has increased from 179,500 at the start of 2002 to 196,480 at the start of 2007, an increase of 16,980 (9 per cent.).

VAT registration and de-registration data provide the only accurate indicator of the level of business start-up and closure activity at the county level.

However, VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (43 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

JUSTICE

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there were for selling alcohol to children and young people under the age of 18 years

in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area in each year between 2004 and 2007. [165404]

Maria Eagle: The information requested on prosecutions for selling alcohol to persons under 18 years in 2004 and 2005 is provided in the table.

In addition to court proceedings, the offence of sale of alcohol to a person under 18 can attract a penalty notice for disorder (PND). The offence was added to the PND scheme on the 1 November 2004. Data on the number of PNDs issued in 2004 and 2005 for the offence are provided in the table.

Data for 2006 will be available shortly.

Number of defendants proceeded at magistrates courts and the number of penalty notices for disorder issued for offences related to the illegal sale of alcohol to persons aged under 18[1, 2, 3, 4]

Police force area	Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts		Penalty notices for disorder issued	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
Avon and Somerset	—	14	—	56
Bedfordshire	7	10	—	2
Cambridgeshire	4	9	—	11
Cheshire	20	8	—	49
Cleveland	10	14	—	33
Cumbria	1	8	—	23
Derbyshire	22	13	—	8
Devon and Cornwall	12	8	—	82
Dorset	10	35	22	22
Durham	2	2	—	—
Essex	2	8	7	120
Gloucestershire	1	5	—	42
Greater Manchester	180	117	—	127
Hampshire	9	11	2	67
Hertfordshire	8	3	—	3
Humberside	11	2	2	45
Kent	15	14	—	10
Lancashire	22	89	30	190
Leicestershire	10	27	2	46
Lincolnshire	4	11	—	26
Merseyside	19	16	2	73
Metropolitan police[5]	167	253	21	161
Norfolk	9	3	—	—
North Yorkshire	22	3	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	11	1	39
Northumbria	51	79	1	48
Nottinghamshire	—	11	9	117
South Yorkshire	5	18	2	107
Staffordshire	5	20	—	19
Suffolk	1	3	—	19
Surrey	10	13	—	—
Sussex	4	4	—	63
Thames Valley	28	15	—	12
Warwickshire	26	7	—	3
West Mercia	5	19	1	22
West Midlands	45	76	6	114
West Yorkshire	21	15	4	72
Wiltshire	10	23	—	8
Dyfed-Powys	24	6	—	18
Gwent	20	16	—	20
North Wales	5	10	1	58

Number of defendants proceeded at magistrates courts and the number of penalty notices for disorder issued for offences related to the illegal sale of alcohol to persons aged under 18[1, 2, 3, 4]

Police force area	Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts		Penalty notices for disorder issued	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
South Wales	34	55	—	123
England and Wales	861	1,084	113	2,058

[1] Prosecutions data are provided on the principal offence basis. PND data are a count on PND tickets issued.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Covers offences under the following statutes. The Licensing Act 1964 S.169 A and B as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S.1, the Licensing Act 1964 S.181 A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 S.17 and the Licensing Act 2003 S.146 and 147, which came into effect from 24 November 2005, so data prior to 2005 is not available.
[4] PND data covers the offence of sale of alcohol to person under 18 under the Licensing act 2003 S126
Source:
RDS—Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Coroners: Armed Forces

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inquests for members of the armed forces were pending in each month since March 2003. [165306]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is not held centrally. We do, however, hold the information in relation to the inquests of service personnel who died in Iraq and Afghanistan. The following table shows the number of open inquests, and the percentage this represents of total deaths of service personnel in the conflicts, at the end of each month. Each fatality must be investigated thoroughly, and that inevitably takes time. The figures show that coroners, helped by additional resources made available by the Government, have been reducing the proportion of inquests which are pending. 130 inquests have been held, half of them this year, for service personnel who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, and two further fatalities have been taken into consideration in inquest proceedings. As at 15 November, there had been 253 service fatalities, either repatriated to England and Wales or who died as a result of injuries, since the conflicts began. We have kept both Houses informed of progress with service inquests and will continue to report each quarter.

Iraq and Afghanistan service deaths: percentage of uncompleted inquests at the end of each month since March 2003

	Number[1]	Percentage[2]
2003		
March	30/30	100
April	36/36	100
May	39/39	100
June	45/45	100
July	44/46	96
August	49/52	94
September	49/53	92
October	49/54	91
November	49/55	89
December	49/55	89

Iraq and Afghanistan service deaths: percentage of uncompleted inquests at the end of each month since March 2003

	Number[1]	Percentage[2]
2004		
January	55/61	90
February	57/62	91
March	57/63	90
April	57/63	90
May	57/63	90
June	57/64	89
July	58/65	89
August	63/69	91
September	66/72	91
October	68/74	91
November	71/78	91
December	71/79	89
2005		
January	81/89	91
February	80/89	89
March	81/90	90
April	81/90	90
May	82/92	89
June	83/93	89
July	86/96	89
August	84/96	88
September	84/99	84
October	82/102	80
November	81/103	79
December	77/103	74
2006		
January	77/105	73
February	78/108	72
March	74/110	67
April	73/111	66
May	79/120	66
June	80/123	65
July	82/127	65
August	85/130	65
September	108/158	68
October	111/161	69
November	102/167	61
December	104/171	61
2007		
January	96/176	55
February	99/181	55
March	99/186	53
April	103/199	52
May	111/207	53
June	112/218	51
July	122/232	53
August	132/242	54
September	132/252	52
October	124/253	49

[1] Number of outstanding inquests and number of fatalities.
[2] Number of outstanding inquests expressed as a percentage of the fatalities at the end of the month.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of time between a death and the start of a inquest was for members of the armed forces in each month since March 2003, in respect of completed inquests. [165307]

Bridget Prentice: The information is not held centrally. However, an inquest is opened to take identification evidence and to enable release of the body to the family and is generally opened within a few days of the death. There will be a longer interval between the death and the opening where there is the possibility of a homicide offence. In these circumstances, the inquest will only be opened when the police are satisfied that the body will not be needed for the purposes of an investigation. In the case of overseas military inquests, there will also be a slightly longer interval between the death and the opening of the inquest because it usually takes between a week and 10 days before the body is returned to the UK.

Custodial Treatment: Digital Broadcasting

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funding his Department has allocated to cover the costs of digital switchover in *(a)* prisons, *(b)* young offenders institutions and *(c)* detention centres. [166659]

Maria Eagle: The switchover of the prison estate in readiness for the switch from analogue to digital television began in 2005 and is expected to be completed in 2012. To date 22 prison establishments have been switched over to digital television with all of the costs met from the rental revenue generated by the charge levied on prisoners for the rental of televisions from the prison service. The full cost of the switchover is not yet known but it is intended that the cost should be met as far as possible from the revenue.

Departmental Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many reports have been made to his Department's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised Civil Service Code since its publication on 6 June 2006; [162471]

(2) how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to his Department by departmental staff since 6 June 2006; [162472]

(3) when his Department's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised Civil Service Code. [162473]

Mr. Straw: Two reports have been made to the Ministry of Justice's nominated officers since 6 June 2006.

Neither of the cases involving nominated officers resulted in reports of allegations of victimisation.

Allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing not involving the nominated officers would be made through staff grievance procedures and, in the public sector Prison Service, through an internal procedure for receiving and analysing intelligence on wrongdoing. Both procedures do not centrally record victimisation resulting from whistleblowing as a separate category. In order to provide the information requested, we would need to contact each of our establishments and HR offices, ask them to interrogate their local records and then submit this information to headquarters. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Whistleblowing procedures for the various parts of the Ministry of Justice were reviewed as follows:

Former DCA—October 2006.

NOMS, OCJR—Currently under review. Due to be re-issued in early 2008.

HMPS—August 2007.

In each case the procedures reflect the provisions of the civil service code.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained (A) temporary and (B) permanent jobs in his Department in 2007. [165118]

Maria Eagle: Unfortunately, the Ministry of Justice does not hold central data in respect of parts (i) and (ii) of this question. To provide this information could be achieved only at a disproportionate cost to the Ministry. The information would have to be extracted from recruitment campaigns undertaken during 2007, by all the Ministry of Justice agencies that have been brought together since 9 May 2007. In respect of part (iii) of this question, a breakdown on the number of people who have gained temporary and permanent jobs by age range within the Ministry is provided in the table.

In general, the Ministry has an obligation under the Civil Service Commissioners Recruitment Code to ensure its recruitment processes are operating under open and fair principles. Therefore, there are no restrictions on application for the majority of civil service posts except for the Prison Service who require an upper age limit of 63 for applications for Prison Officers, thus reflecting the requirement for the organisation to obtain value from the investment in their training.

Age on joining	*Temporary*	*Permanent*
30-39	247	1,399
40-49	311	1,397
50-59	224	845
60-69	68	148

Driving Offences: Fines

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many warrants were issued by the Traffic Enforcement Centre following penalty charge notices in *(a)* England and *(b)* London in each year since the operation of the centre. [165494]

Bridget Prentice: My Department only has data available from when the Traffic Enforcement Centre (TEC) was transferred to Northampton county court in April 2000. It does not collect separate figures for warrants issued in respect of particular areas.

Housing: Prices

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice according to the most recent Land Registry data, how many and what percentage of homes in England are worth *(a)* £800,000 or more and *(b)* £1,000,000 or more. [165132]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry is able to provide information on the total number of properties sold for which prices of £800,000 or more and £1,000,000 or more have been paid. As these figures are extracted using price paid data, no information is available for any properties which have not been sold and on the basis of recorded sales figures in England within the requested price sectors. These sector-specific sales figures have then been calculated as a percentage of total annual sales from 1995 onwards. This is the date when residential property price information was first produced. Quarterly data for 2007 are provided, with percentages calculated from the total volume of sales during each period.

The figures are reflected in the following table.

Land Registry Price Reports for England 1995 to 2007

	Total sales	*Sales £800,000 to £1 million*	*Percentage of total*	*Total sales £1 million+*	*Percentage of total*
1995	771,478	231	0.03	232	0.03
1996	930,952	330	0.03	335	0.03
1997	1,052,655	546	0.05	622	0.06
1998	1,009,219	593	0.06	823	0.08
1999	1,159,617	1,084	0.09	1,304	0.11
2000	1,088,849	1,633	0.15	2,056	0.19
2001	1,199,638	1,984	0.16	2,451	0.20
2002	1,299,175	2,749	0.21	3,160	0.24
2003	1,211,624	2,871	0.24	3,084	0.25
2004	1,229,492	3,761	0.30	4,199	0.34
2005	1,019,952	3,804	0.37	3,991	0.39
2006	1,268,766	5,879	0.46	6,541	0.51
2007					
Quarter 1	274,849	1,555	0.56	1,834	0.67
Quarter 2	312,388	1,862	0.60	2,078	0.67
Quarter 3	292,806	2,340	0.80	2,681	0.92

Source:
Land Registry.

Human Trafficking

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many successful prosecutions there were of men accused of trafficking under-age women into the UK in each year since 2000. [164409]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The data available on the number of successful prosecutions for trafficking under age women into the UK are not broken down by age or gender. It is therefore not possible to say how many men were convicted or how many victims were under age women.

However, there were 67 convictions for trafficking related offences, under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, at 22 October, 2007. The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May, 2004 specifically to combat human trafficking. In 2004, three convictions were secured using the Sexual Offences Act 2003; in 2005 there were 21, 27 in 2006 and to date this year, there have been 16.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fines were issued to registered vehicle owners for failing to comply with the statutory off-road notification declaration in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07. [165848]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The number of fines that were issued to registered vehicle owners for failing to comply with the statutory off-road notification declaration is:

	Successful Prosecutions	*County Court Judgments*
2003-04	1,647	—
2004-05	767	74,872
2005-06	—	114,713
2006-07	—	84,545

Prosecution procedures for statutory off-road notifications changed in 2004 from a criminal to a civil process.

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many registered vehicle owners paid fines issued for failing to comply with statutory off-road notification declarations in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07. [165890]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The number of registered vehicle owners who paid fines issued for failing to comply with statutory off road notification declarations is:

	Number
2004-05	13,219
2005-06	30,124
2006-07	29,074

Offenders: Drugs

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost per week to the public purse is of *(a)* a person in prison and *(b)* a person undergoing residential drug rehabilitation treatment as part of a non-custodial sentence. [166170]

Mr. Hanson: The average weekly cost to the public purse of a person in prison is £698.00.

The average weekly cost to the public purse of a person undergoing residential drug rehabilitation treatment as part of a non-custodial sentence depends on the nature of the treatment delivered. Costs are set out in the following table:

Treatment type	*£ per week*
Detoxification and primary treatment	667
Services providing detoxification, primary and secondary treatment	476
Primary treatment only	469
Primary and secondary treatment only	412
Second stage only services	390

The Drug Rehabilitation Requirement is the main alternative to custody for those requiring drug treatment. The DRR does not rely for delivery on residential treatment.

Opinion Leader Research

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many contracts were awarded by his Department to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Department in each case. [165274]

Bridget Prentice: There have been four contracts awarded to Opinion Leader Research since 1997. Details, along with year contract awarded, costs and relevant dates are as follows:

Contracts awarded

	Number
1997 - 2004	0
2005-06	1
2006-07	3

Detail (including payments)

(a) Title and purpose	*(b) Cost (£) (including VAT)*	*(c)i Date tender proposal received*	*(c)ii Date contract awarded*	*(c)iii Date carried out*	*(c)iv Date completed/report to Department*
2005-06					
Judicial diversity research report: findings of a consultation with barristers, solicitors and judges	76,316	8 September 2005	30 September 2005	October - December 2005	26 January 2006

(a) Title and purpose	(b) Cost (£) (including VAT)	(c)i Date tender proposal received	(c)ii Date contract awarded	(c)iii Date carried out	(c)iv Date completed/report to Department
		Detail (including payments)			
To explore the barriers to applying for judicial posts among women and BME solicitors and Barristers					
2006-07					
Draft Coroners Bill	15,490	5 September 2006	6 September 2006	9 November 2006	15 December 2006
To act as facilitators at a one-day event seeking feedback on draft Coroners Bill					
Meeting Military families	4,700	29 November 2006	By 4 December 2006	4 December 2006	February 2007
To act as facilitators to a meeting with families of bereaved servicemen and women who had lost their lives in Iraq, and been involved in the inquest process					
The impact of changing court fees on users	56,964	23 August 2006	19 September 2006	September - December 2006	(April 2007)
Research contract—to examine users' knowledge of court processes and cost, the key factors in their decision to proceed to court					

Police Custody

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has been invoiced by each police force for the use of police cells under Operation Safeguard in each month since October 2006. [166669]

Mr. Hanson: The following table provides the dates covered and amounts invoiced by police forces in England and Wales to cover costs incurred under Operation Safeguard since October 2006:

Police force	From	To	Total (£)
Bedfordshire	February 2007	31 March 2007	62,555
Bedfordshire	1 April 2007	31 July 2007	193,389
Bedfordshire	August 2007	October 2007	82,436
Bedfordshire	Credit	—	-3,121
Cambridgeshire	1 October 2006	31 March 2007	374,789
Cheshire	1 November 2006	31 March 2007	692,073
Cheshire	1 August 2006	30 September 2006	9,802
Cheshire	1 June 2007	30 June 2007	60,022
Cheshire	1 April 2007	30 June 2007	738,865
Cheshire	1 May 2007	30 June 2007	244,164
Cheshire	July 2007	September 2007	1,198,049
Cumbria	29 January 2007	23 February 2007	68,284
Cumbria	12 March 2007	31 March 2007	28,558
Cumbria	1 May 2007	31 May 2007	49,141
Cumbria	1 April 2007	30 April 2007	43,857
Derbyshire	1 October 2006	31 December 2006	151,810
Derbyshire	1 April 2007	31 May 2007	139,243
Derbyshire	1 June 2007	31 July 2007	119,902
Derbyshire	1 January 2007	31 March 2007	163,654
Devon and Cornwall	28 November 2006	22 December 2006	70,486
Devon and Cornwall	1 June 2007	31 July 2007	192,619
Devon and Cornwall	August 2007	September 2007	134,872
Devon and Cornwall	16 January 2007	31 March 2007	221,133
Devon and Cornwall	1 April 2007	31 May 2007	225,717
Dorset Police	12 October 2006	23 December 2006	101,211
Dorset Police	8 January 2007	31 March 2007	99,930
Dorset Police	1 April 2007	28 June 2007	122,671
Durham	12 October 2006	22 December 2006	143,397
Durham	16 January 2007	31 January 2007	52,271
Durham	1 February 2007	20 February 2007	53,969
Durham	8 March 2007	31 March 2007	74,686
Durham	1 May 2007	31 May 2007	88,408
Durham	1 April 2007	30 April 2007	88,870
Durham	1 June 2007	30 June 2007	88,851
Durham	Credit	—	-2,251
Dyfed Powys	1 November 2006	10 November 2006	19,408
Dyfed Powys	12 October 2006	31 October 2006	28,700
Dyfed Powys	11 December 2006	23 December 2006	28,859
Dyfed Powys	16 January 2007	29 January 2007	38,548
Dyfed Powys	30 January 2007	22 February 2007	53,562
Dyfed Powys	22 February 2007	31 March 2007	109,634
Dyfed Powys	14 May 2007	31 May 2007	41,407
Dyfed Powys	1 April 2007	14 May 2007	139,501
Dyfed Powys	1 July 2007	23 July 2007	50,048
Dyfed Powys	27 August 2007	27 August 2007	5,600
Dyfed Powys	1 June 2007	30 June 2007	68,146
Dyfed Powys	Credit	—	-439
Essex	16 October 2006	31 October 2006	158,323
Essex	1 November 2006	30 November 2006	284,958
Essex	1 December 2006	30 December 2006	211,460
Essex	1 January 2007	31 January 2007	179,638
Essex	1 February 2007	28 February 2007	196,391
Essex	1 March 2007	31 March 2007	190,697
Essex	1 May 2007	31 May 2007	195,398
Essex	1 April 2007	31 April 07	208,441
Essex	1 July 2007	31 July 2007	179,922
Essex	June 2007	June 2007	229,088

Police force	From	To	Total (£)
Essex	August 2007	August 2007	192,178
Greater Manchester	22 January 2007	31 March 2007	497,643
Greater Manchester	1 April 2007	30 April 2007	167,535
Greater Manchester	1 May 2007	31 May 2007	244,504
Greater Manchester	11 December 2006	22 December 2006	85,368
Gwent	25 June 2007	30 June 2007	13,199
Gwent	Start up costs	—	4,632
Gwent	Credit	—	-1,293
Hampshire	1 December 2006	31 March 2007	283,622
Hampshire	7 December 2006	15 February 2007	101,580
Hampshire	April 2007	June 2007	73,985
Hampshire	June 2007	September 2007	237,129
Hertfordshire	1 December 2007	31 March 2007	118,335
Hertfordshire	1 March 2007	31 March 2007	109,350
Hertfordshire	1 February 2007	28 February 2007	100,629
Hertfordshire	1 June 2007	30 June 2007	104,918
Hertfordshire	1 April 2007	30 June 2007	235,759
Hertfordshire	1 July 2007	31 July 2007	92,396
Hertfordshire	1 August 2007	31 August 2007	103,313
Hertfordshire	1 September 2007	30 September 2007	112,403
Hertfordshire	October 2007	October 2007	103,693
Hertfordshire	Credit	—	-1,183
Kent	10 October 2006	5 November 2006	76,780
Kent	6 November 2006	30 November 2006	33,154
Kent	Administration charge	—	469
Kent	1 December 2006	31 December 2006	76,055
Kent	1 January 2007	5 March 2007	110,221
Kent	1 March 2007	31 March 2007	97,725
Kent	1 May 2007	31 May 2007	143,439
Kent	1 April 2007	30 April 2007	136,522
Kent	1 July 2007	31 July 2007	128,088
Kent	1 June 2007	30 June 2007	138,931
Kent	1 August 2007	31 August 2007	138,800
Kent	1 September 2007	30 September 2007	121,816
Lancashire	22 January 2007	26 February 2007	172,651
Lancashire	March 2007	August 2007	681,585
Leicestershire	1 April 2007	31 May 2007	250,451
Lincolnshire	7 November 2006	22 December 2006	132,848
Lincolnshire	1 March 2007	31 March 2007	113,479
Lincolnshire	1 April 2007	30 April 2007	87,929
Lincolnshire	1 May 2007	31 May 2007	92,806
Lincolnshire	1 June 2007	30 June 2007	103,381
Lincolnshire	1 July 2007	25 July 2007	62,593
Lincolnshire	August 2007	September 2007	198,986
Lincolnshire	11 October 2006	6 November 2006	81,571
Lincolnshire	22 January 2007	28 February 2007	112,838
Lincolnshire	Credit	—	-628
Merseyside	13 October 2006	15 December 2006	418,089
Merseyside	May 2007	October 2007	9,776
Metropolitan	23 November 2006	31 December 2006	449,672
Metropolitan	23 November 2006	22 January 2007	291,721
Metropolitan	1 December 2006	31 March 2007	76,825
Metropolitan	17 January 2007	18 February 2007	1,224,294
Metropolitan	April 2007	April 2007	1,127,760
Metropolitan	19 February 2007	20 March 2007	1,057,262
Metropolitan	21 March 2007	31 March 2007	403,314
Metropolitan	Credit		-39,589
North Wales	12 October 2006	12 November 2006	86,277
North Wales	17 January 2007	20 February 2007	100,007
North Wales	21 February 2007	31 March 2007	52,202
North Wales	1 April 2007	27 September 2007	641,212
Northamptonshire	1 October 2007	31 December 2006	214,667
Northamptonshire	1 January 2007	31 March 2007	215,202
Northamptonshire	1 April 2007	29 June 2007	373,600
Northamptonshire	1 July 2007	16 September 2007	125,248
Northumbria	15 January 2007	4 February 2007	44,739
Northumbria	5 February 2007	4 March 2007	55,943
Northumbria	5 March 2007	1 April 2007	77,909
Northumbria	2 April 2007	6 May 2007	74,869
Northumbria	7 May 2007	3 June 2007	64,294
Northumbria	1 June 2007	30 June 2007	68,813
Northumbria	1 July 2007	31 July 2007	29,017
South Wales	10 October 2006	15 December 2006	[1]734,765
	29 January 2007	31 March 2007	[1]—
South Yorkshire	10 April 2007	29 April 2007	48,240
South Yorkshire	Refurbish custody suite[2]	—	18,310
South Yorkshire	30 April 2007	27 May 2007	78,631
South Yorkshire	28 May 2007	1 July 2007	72,615
South Yorkshire	2 July 2007	19 July 2007	48,599
South Yorkshire	August 2007	September 2007	98,023
Suffolk	17 October 2006	18 November 2006	124,681
Suffolk	17 January 2007	31 March 2007	242,283
Sussex	16 October 2006	22 December 2006	133,925
Thames Valley	12 October 2006	19 November 2006	187,736
Thames Valley	20 November 2006	22 December 2006	201,926
Thames Valley	12 January 2007	28 February 2007	130,181
Thames Valley	1 April 2007	30 April 2007	126,005
Thames Valley	1 June 2007	30 June 2007	142,062
Thames Valley	August 2007	September 2007	256,658
Thames Valley	1 March 2007	31 March 2007	198,726
Thames Valley	1 May 2007	31 May 2007	126,192
Thames Valley	1 July 2007	31 July 2007	119,305
Thames Valley	Credit	—	-270
West Midlands	13 October 2006	30 November 2006	165,290
West Midlands	1 December 2006	31 December 2006	301,910
West Yorkshire	22 January 2007	23 February 2007	152,420
Warwickshire	22 October 2006	22 December 2006	99,489
Warwickshire	12 January 2007	31 March 2007	192,315
Warwickshire	April 2007	July 2007	197,843
West Midlands	1 February 2007	28 February 2007	139,469
West Midlands	1 January 2007	31 January 2007	194,918
West Midlands	1 March 2007	31 March 2007	163,305
West Midlands	May 2007	May 2007	397,006
West Yorkshire	12 March 2007	31 March 2007	95,347
West Yorkshire	1 April 2007	30 June 2007	376,338
West Yorkshire	1 July 2007	July 2007	110,349
West Yorkshire	1 August 2007	31 August 2007	126,287
West Yorkshire	September 2007	September 2007	164,626
West Yorkshire	October 2007	October 2007	269,986
Wiltshire	2 April 2007	10 April 2007	35,379
Wiltshire	Credit	—	-9,691

[2] Thorne police station custody suite refurbished and reopened for Operation Safeguard use.

NOMS checks invoices received by police forces. In cases where overpayment has occurred, credit notes are issued by police forces to NOMS.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of Operation Safeguard has been in each month since October 2006. [166670]

Mr. Hanson: To date, around £28,700,000 has been invoiced by police forces in England and Wales for housing prisoners under Operation Safeguard between October 2006 and November 2007. As different police forces may submit monthly, bi-monthly or consolidated invoices in arrears that may cover more than one month, the cost of Operation Safeguard in each month is not centrally held.

Police Custody: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions *(a)* convicted and *(b)* remand prisoners were held in Welsh police cells for more than one night; and how many nights each prisoner concerned spent in police cells. [166180]

Mr. Hanson: Figures for the number of occasions convicted and remanded prisoners have been held in police cells under Operation Safeguard are not held separately.

Information on the number of nights individual prisoners have spent in police cells under Operation Safeguard is not held centrally.

Prison Officers: Dismissal

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* disciplinary proceedings, *(b)* criminal charges and *(c)* prosecutions followed the dismissals of prison officers from Welsh prisons in each year since 1998; and what the outcome was of those proceedings. [166182]

Mr. Hanson: Staff can be dismissed from the Prison Service if their performance, attendance or conduct falls below the required standard. Disciplinary proceedings cease once a member of staff has been dismissed from service. The Prison Service does not maintain records of criminal charges or prosecutions that are instigated against former employees.

Prisoners Transfers

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria are used to decide upon the transfer between prisons of inmates requiring high security conditions. [165998]

Mr. Hanson: A number of factors are taken into consideration in deciding the transfer of prisoners requiring high security conditions. These include: whether the prisoner was on remand or sentenced; the possible need for vulnerable prisoner accommodation; the need of the prisoner to be able to address offending behaviour work and other targets set in the sentence plan; and the possible impact of the good order or discipline of the receiving prison.

Prisoners: Repatriation

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many British prisoners who have been transferred to the UK from other countries under international agreements have subsequently *(a)* been pardoned and *(b)* had their sentences reduced by the UK authorities. [166283]

Mr. Hanson: No prisoner transferred to the United Kingdom under international prisoner transfer agreements has subsequently been pardoned by the UK authorities. A small number of prisoners transferred to the UK have had their sentences adapted where the sentence imposed in the other jurisdiction exceeded the maximum sentence available to the courts in the UK for the same offence. In these cases, the sentences were adapted to that maximum sentence. The number of prisoners who have had their sentences adapted in this way is not centrally recorded.

Prisons: Children in Care

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of inmates in *(a)* secure training centres, *(b)* youth offender institutions and *(c)* prisons were in local authority care as children in the most recent year for which data is available. [163056]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

We do not have figures for the care status of young people in secure training centres. Figures are collected of the care status of young people in young offender institutions and prisons where that is known, but we are aware that establishments are not always informed whether young people coming into custody have looked after status. On 31 March 2007, 120 young people in young offender institutions or prisons were reported as being looked after by local authorities.

Prisons: Construction

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated cost is of constructing *(a)* the 8,000 new prison places announced by the former Home Secretary and *(b)* the further 1,500 new prison places announced by the former Lord Chancellor; and with respect to how many of these places planning permission has been obtained. [166690]

Mr. Hanson: Estimated capital costs for the 8,000 place programme are around £1.5 billion and new money is being made available to provide an additional 1,500 places.

Planning permission has been sought and approved for 32 of the sites where additional prison places are being built.

Truancy: Fines

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of fines expected to be handed out to 17-year-olds who truant in the first year of implementation of such a policy. [163649]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

We set out our proposals to raise the minimum age at which young people can leave education and training to 18, in the "Raising Expectations: staying in education

and training post-16" Green Paper in March and the subsequent policy document on 5 November. If a young person drops out of education or training altogether, the focus will be on providing help, support and guidance to help them re-engage in learning as soon as possible. There will then be a series of administrative procedures that would be followed before a court process would be reached, where a fine could be imposed. It is difficult to assess exact numbers, but we would expect only a few young people would reach this stage.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

EU Reform Treaty

10. **Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the UK's timetable for ratification of the EU reform treaty. [165627]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has said

> "The Government will recommend that there is sufficient time for debate on the Floor of the House so that the Bill is examined in the fullest detail and all points of view can be heard".

Once the Bill has been approved by Parliament, the Government will ratify the treaty.

13. **Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of whether the Government's red lines have been secured in the EU reform treaty; and if he will make a statement. [165630]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The former Prime Minister the right hon. Tony Blair set out the UK Government's red lines ahead of the June European Council.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has placed a document in the Library of the House setting out how the Government's red lines are protected in the draft reform treaty, with commentary explaining each provision in detail.

14. **Mr. Lilley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the ratification of the EU reform treaty. [165631]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has said:

> "The Government will recommend that there is sufficient time for debate on the Floor of the House so that the Bill is examined in the fullest detail and all points of view can be heard".

Once the Bill has been approved by Parliament, the Government will ratify the treaty.

20. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the UK to ratify the EU Reform Treaty. [165637]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has said:

> "The Government will recommend that there is sufficient time for debate on the Floor of the House so that the Bill is examined in the fullest detail and all points of view can be heard".

Once the Bill has been approved by Parliament, the Government will ratify the Treaty.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

11. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution his Department is making in negotiations on international agreements to limit carbon dioxide emissions from aviation and shipping. [165628]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is working with Government and EU partners on the essential elements of a comprehensive agreement on a post-2012 framework to address climate change. Aviation and maritime emissions is one of those elements. To maximise our chances of securing the comprehensive agreement the world needs, the FCO is working in key countries to promote support for new negotiations on a global successor to commitments agreed in Kyoto in 1997.

Iran

16. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on Iran's nuclear programme. [165633]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Iran's nuclear programme with EU Foreign Ministers at the meeting of the General Affairs Council in Luxembourg on 15 October. Since then he has held discussions on the issue with the French, German, Portuguese, Italian, Belgian and Finnish Foreign Ministers and with Javier Solana, the EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy.

EU Migration Policy

17. **Mr. Redwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to renegotiate EU migration policy. [165634]

Mr. Jim Murphy: EU member states first agreed to enhance co-operation on EU migration policy at the treaty of Maastricht and this was developed further under the Amsterdam treaty. At this time we obtained the ability to opt-in where in our national interest and we will continue to retain that.

Pakistan

18. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs If he will make a statement on the political situation in Pakistan. [165635]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply given today by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to the hon. Member for Barnsley Central.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the General Affairs and External Relations Council last issued a statement on Pakistan; and whether it plans to do so in the near future. [164304]

Dr. Howells: The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council last referred to Pakistan in a statement on Afghanistan on 12 December 2006. The specific text is available at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/92123.pdf (paragraph 10, page 16).

The EU last issued a statement on the current situation in Pakistan on 6 November.

Future statements are a matter for the Council to decide.

Darfur

19. **Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in establishing a UN peacekeeping force for Darfur. [165636]

Dr. Howells: The UN-African Union hybrid force (UNAMID) is due to assume authority from AMIS, the current African Union Mission in Sudan, no later than 31 December 2007, as mandated in UN Security Council Resolution 1769 of 31 July 2007. Work to manage the transition began in Sudan in early September and we are pressing UN and AU to deploy rapidly.

21. **Mark Hunter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made towards the deployment of the UN-African Union hybrid force in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [165638]

Dr. Howells: The UN-African Union hybrid force (UNAMID) is due to assume authority from AMIS, the current African Union Mission in Sudan, no later than 31 December 2007, as mandated in UN Security Council Resolution 1769 of 31 July 2007. Work to manage the transition began in Sudan in early September and we are pressing UN and AU to deploy rapidly.

Abduction: Dubai

22. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to assist Ms Grace Ciliberto of Wickford, Essex in the case of the abduction of her son in Dubai. [165639]

Dr. Howells: Our staff in London and at our embassy in Dubai have provided consular assistance to Mrs. Ciliberto since September 2003. The case has been the subject of legal proceedings in both the UK and the UAE. The embassy have liaised with Mrs. Ciliberto and her lawyers regularly. They have also put her in touch with the City of Hope foundation, who assist women and children in Mrs. Ciliberto's position.

Middle East

23. **Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the UK's role in the middle east peace process. [165640]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced to the House on 14 November that the UK would deliver a comprehensive and ambitious economic recovery package, worth up to £243 million over three years, dependent on tangible progress towards peace. We expect the Annapolis meeting later this month to be substantive and to produce concrete results. We are working closely with the US, EU and regional counterparts to this end.

Burma

24. **Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Burma. [165641]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made a statement on Burma on 14 November. We welcome Professor Gambari's report on his recent visit to Burma and look forward to his early return. We support Aung San Suu Kyi's statement and her call for a

'meaningful and time-bound dialogue'

with the regime. These signs of progress are welcome, but much remains to be done to secure real political change.

UN-African Union Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the UN-African Union hybrid peacekeeping force mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1769 to be deployed; and if he will make a statement. [165370]

Dr. Howells: The UN-African Union (AU) hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur (UNAMID) is due to assume authority from the current AU Mission in Sudan no later than 31 December 2007, as mandated in UN Security Council Resolution 1769 of 31 July 2007. We are pressing the UN and the AU to have an effective deployment by this date.

Asylum: Applications

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many asylum applications were received at UK posts abroad in 2006-07; and of those how many were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused. [165403]

Dr. Howells: UKvisas does not record this information.

There are no provisions in the immigration rules covering asylum applications. Under the 1951 Convention on Refugees the UK is obliged to consider asylum applications made in the UK only. Under the 1951 Convention asylum applications cannot be submitted in the applicant's home country.

Anyone approaching a UK diplomatic post overseas to claim asylum in a country other than their own would be referred to the local Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees or advised to seek protection from the host government.

Bosnia: Politics and Government

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political and security situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [165376]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We are concerned about the recent deterioration of the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). We are urging politicians from all sides to refrain from actions which undermine the foundations of the state, to ensure the efficient operation of state institutions and to take forward reforms which are necessary for BiH to move forward. We fully support High Representative Lajcak and urge all parties to uphold their obligations to respect and implement his decisions. The security situation within BiH remains stable.

Burma: Assets

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what value of funds belonging to the Burmese regime have been *(a)* identified and *(b)* frozen since 2000 by EU member states in accordance with the EU's Common Position 2000/346/CFSP. [165366]

Dr. Howells: EU member states do not systematically share detailed information concerning the value of funds they have identified and frozen. However, they are legally obliged to freeze all funds and economic resources belonging to persons listed under the sanctions regime. It is prohibited to make funds or economic resources available, directly or indirectly, to these persons.

Burma: Sanctions

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what broader measures that target sources of revenue for the Burmese regime the Government has discussed with other EU member states as referred to in the answer of 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 188W, on Burma: sanctions. [165431]

Dr. Howells: The UK has concentrated in its discussions with EU partners on implementation of the decisions, which were agreed by the EU on 15 October. Those decisions were aimed at increasing pressure on the Burmese regime through an export ban on equipment to the sectors of logs and timber and mining of metals, minerals, precious and semi-precious stones; an import ban of products of these sectors; and an investment ban on these sectors.

The UK is also exploring with EU partners whether there are additional measures that could be brought to bear against members of the Burmese regime, should this become necessary.

China: Administration of Justice

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of the People's Republic of China on the development of the Chinese legal system to internationally-recognised standards; whether he expects such reforms to the Chinese legal system to be in place by 2012; and if he will make a statement. [165151]

Dr. Howells: We regularly urge the Chinese government to ensure that domestic legislation complies with international standards, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). During his visit to China in August my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, urged China to progress reforms and ratify the ICCPR as soon as possible. The Director of Public Prosecutions also raised ICCPR and China's criminal justice system when he visited Beijing in September. The Chinese government remains unwilling to commit to a timetable for ICCPR ratification. In 1997 the 15th Party Congress committed to developing a socialist legal system by 2010. President Hu Jintao's speech to the 17th Party Congress in October 2007 repeated the goal of

"speeding up the building of a socialist country under the rule of law".

Commonwealth

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response he has made to the proposals of some of the Commonwealth African members who wish to transfer the Commonwealth Headquarters from London to Kampala, Uganda. [166017]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is unaware of any proposals to transfer the Commonwealth Secretariat from London to Uganda.

Commonwealth Secretariat: Location

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the proposal by Commonwealth countries in Africa to transfer the Commonwealth Secretariat from London to Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [165448]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. member to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) today (UIN 166017).

Convention Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will take steps to ratify the International Labour Organisation Convention 169 on the land rights of indigenous people. [165257]

Dr. Howells: The Government have no plans to sign and ratify the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention 1989 (ILO 169). The UK takes its international law obligations very seriously and as a general rule will only sign and ratify an instrument when we can ensure our full compliance with it and commit to its implementation. The UK position with regard to ILO 169 was set out in a 1989 Department for Education and Employment White Paper ("Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries" Command Paper Number: CM 1078). As the White Paper noted, ILO 169 was essentially an update of the 1957 ILO Convention 107. The White Paper explained that Convention 107 could not be

applied to the UK as there are no indigenous, tribal or semi-tribal people there, and so had not been ratified by the UK. The same arguments applied to ILO 169 as it did not alter the scope of Convention 107. This position still stands.

The UK is committed to the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples. On 13 September 2007, the UK voted in favour of the adoption of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the UN General Assembly, as we had previously done at the Human Rights Council in June 2006. The adoption of this Declaration marks a significant advance for indigenous peoples around the world.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that English wine is served exclusively or at the request of guests at meals, parties and receptions hosted by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [164299]

Meg Munn: All public procurement procedures must comply with the European Community treaty. The key principles of the treaty, from a public procurement point of view, are the free movement of goods and services, and non-discrimination on the grounds of nationality. This legislation is designed to ensure that all public procurement across the EU is fair, transparent and non-discriminatory.

This means that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office cannot specify that it will buy goods (e.g. wine) only from a particular country or locality, as that would discriminate against producers from other EU member states.

However, the Government are committed to increase opportunities for small and local suppliers to tender for contracts, thus increasing competition and securing better value for money.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department's in-house language group was established; and how many of his Department's staff have received foreign language training in the language school since its establishment. [165368]

Dr. Howells: The Diplomatic Language Laboratory was established at Westminster in 1965 and become the Diplomatic Service Language Centre in 1968. Since the 1990s, between 250-400 officers per year received language training at the Centre until its closure on 2 October 2007. To provide more detailed information on how many staff have been trained by the language school would incur disproportionate cost.

The Middle East Centre for Arab Studies (MECAS) was established in 1944 and came under Foreign Office direction from around 1947. Around 1,100 students passed through MECAS between 1944 and 1978, when it closed.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the full-time equivalent headcount in his Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for his Department is for financial years *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [163972]

Dr. Howells: On 1 October 2006 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and its agencies (Wilton Park and FCO Services) employed 6,130 full-time equivalent UK civil servants. In addition FCO missions overseas employ approximately 10,000 locally recruited staff.

We do not yet have firm estimates for staff numbers in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Departmental Property

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on renovation and refurbishment of its properties in each of the last five years. [164372]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has spent the following sums on refurbishments and repairs in the last five financial years:

£ million

Financial year	*Major capital expenditure on refurbishments*	*Administration cost expenditure on minor repairs and refurbishment*
2002-03	8.9	1.7
2003-04	6.2	2.6
2004-05	3.4	3.8
2005-06	5.3	7.0
2006-07	9.3	5.9

Eritrea: Terrorism

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the terrorist threat originating from Eritrea. [165363]

Dr. Howells: The Government are continually assessing the terrorist threat at home and abroad, including that originating from Eritrea.

Accordingly, the estimated level of the terrorist threat to the UK, and UK interests overseas, is regularly adjusted and updated.

We currently assess the terrorist threat to the UK from Eritrea to be low.

EU Reform: Treaties

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the ratification of the EU Reform Treaty. [165983]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said in his Post European Council statement of 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 21:

> "The Government will recommend that there is sufficient time for debate on the Floor of the House so that the Bill is examined in the fullest of detail and all points of view can be heard"

Once the Bill has been approved by Parliament, the Government will ratify the Treaty.

Guinea Bissau: EU Action

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on a European Security and Defence Policy mission to Guinea Bissau. [164436]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Following the report of a recent joint Council/Commission fact-finding mission, preparatory discussions have begun at official level about a European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) mission to Guinea-Bissau. No decisions have been taken, but, in principle, the Government supports the case for a targeted civilian ESDP mission to provide strategic advice to the Guinea-Bissau authorities on reform of the police, justice and security sector, to strengthen Guinea-Bissau's capacity to tackle the transit of drugs through its territory from Latin America to Europe.

Hong Kong: Politics and Government

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Chief Executive's Green Paper on Constitutional Development; and if he will make a statement. [162866]

David Miliband: My right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Margaret Beckett) and my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, both discussed constitutional development with the Chief Executive when they visited Hong Kong in May and August 2007 respectively. I also had discussions with the Hong Kong Financial Secretary, John Tsang, at the Hong Kong Trade Development Council annual dinner last month. I hope that following the conclusion of the consultation period on the Green Paper, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region will take the lead in producing proposals around which consensus can gather.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on its human rights obligations towards people it is detaining in Iraq. [164200]

Dr. Howells: The UK detains individuals in Iraq for imperative security under the authority of UN Security Council Resolution 1723 (2006). It is a power we use sparingly. We hold 36 detainees at present.

The rule of law is paramount. UK service personnel can, and will, be prosecuted if there is evidence that they have tortured, assaulted or committed any other offence against a person. UK forces are subject to English criminal law at all times wherever in the world they are serving. As a matter of policy we apply the standards of conduct set out in the Geneva Conventions.

We have a stringent review procedure to ensure that internees are released as soon as they cease to pose an imperative threat to security. Internee cases are reviewed on a monthly basis. Individuals have the right to provide written representation at the monthly reviews of their internment and have regular access to lawyers. A joint Iraqi/Coalition review board sits quarterly to assess the cases of all UK-held internees and make recommendations. A separate joint Iraqi/Coalition internment committee reviews detention cases after 18 months to decide whether continued internment is necessary.

Where possible, we seek to transfer the cases of individual detainees to the Iraqi justice system. We have assurances from the Government of Iraq that anyone transferred from UK to Iraqi custody will be treated in accordance with basic international human rights principles.

The International Committee for the Red Cross has regular and open access to our internment facility and all our internees. The facility has also been inspected by a team from the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights.

Japan: Whales

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to build an international coalition to secure an outright ban on whaling as practised by the Japanese whaling fleet. [165053]

Dr. Howells: The UK plays a prominent role in building and maintaining the coalition of anti-whaling countries within the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

In advance of the 2007 Annual Meeting in Anchorage, the UK and its like-minded allies recruited a further six countries into the IWC with the result that the pro-whaling majority in that organisation was overturned.

In a further response to UK lobbying efforts, several other countries have indicated willingness to support our opposition to Japanese whaling and to join the IWC in time for next year's annual meeting. British embassies and missions will shortly deliver to certain governments an updated version of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs publication "Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility" as part of a lobbying campaign to encourage more countries to join the IWC, to strengthen further the global opposition to commercial whaling.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political and security situation in Kosovo. [165377]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I agree fully with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's assessment that the status quo in Kosovo is unsustainable. That is why the UK is committed to an early resolution of Kosovo's status.

The security situation is calm but fragile. As for the political situation, simultaneous general, municipal and mayoral elections will be held in Kosovo on 17 November. The UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe are fully engaged in ensuring that these take place in an orderly and well-conducted manner.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* EU and *(b)* US counterpart on the possibility of Kosovo declaring unilateral independence from Serbia; and if he will make a statement. [165378]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I am in regular contact with my EU and US counterparts on the Kosovo status issue. When my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I met Kosovo's cross-party Team of Unity, which represents Kosovo in status negotiations with Belgrade, in London on 9 October, we made clear to them that Kosovo must engage fully in the ongoing Troika process and stay in step with international efforts to bring the status process through to completion.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to his Russian counterpart on the future status of Kosovo. [165381]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK is in regular contact with Russia on the Kosovo status process both bilaterally and as fellow members of the Contact Group. The Contact Group last met at ministerial level in New York on 27 September. The Contact Group issued a statement which agreed inter alia that an early resolution of Kosovo's status is crucial to the stability and security of the Western Balkans and Europe as a whole.

Opinion Leader Research

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many contracts were awarded by his Department and the agencies for which it is responsible to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Department or agency. [165342]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no record of any contracts being awarded to Opinion Leader Research since 1997.

Pakistan: Custody

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 9 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 167, on Pakistan (detention), what assessment he has made of the treatment of *(a)* Mrs. Asma Akhtar and *(b)* other UK nationals who are involved in child custody cases in Pakistan's courts. [166414]

Dr. Howells: In custody cases abroad involving British nationals, we offer advice and practical support to parents to assist them through their court proceedings. The courts must resolve custody cases of this kind. We understand that it is very difficult for the parents and children involved when the cases are not resolved quickly, but we are unable to intervene in the legal process of another country.

We cannot comment on individual cases.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times the UK-Pakistan Judicial Protocol on Children Matters has been invoked in Pakistan's courts on behalf of a parent who has obtained relief by order of the High Court of the Family Division of England and Wales, regarding a child or children unlawfully retained there; and on how many of those times has a child or children been subsequently returned to England and Wales. [166472]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Family Division of the UK Royal Courts of Justice maintain records of cases brought under the Protocol. Since its inception in 2003, 84 cases have been brought under the Protocol. Of these, 49 involved actual abduction or wrongful retention of a child by a parent. 19 of these cases involved court proceedings being initiated in Pakistan and 22 cases resulted in returns from Pakistan to the UK. In some cases a child is returned to the UK before the court process is completed as the left behind parent cannot afford to continue to pursue the case.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of whether the UK-Pakistan Judicial Protocol on Children Matters is being observed by Pakistan's courts; and what representations he has received on the matter. [166474]

Dr. Howells: We are currently funding a project to examine existing judgments made under the Protocol, both in the UK and in the Pakistan courts. This work is being carried out by "reunite", the International Child Abduction Centre, a non-governmental charity organisation who specialise in advising parents on these matters. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received no representations on this matter.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has taken steps to implement the recommendation in paragraph 7 of the UK-Pakistan Judicial Protocol on Children Matters to the governments of the UK and Pakistan to identify or consider creating a provision for an enforcement authority. [166475]

Dr. Howells: The UK-Pakistan Protocol is a judicial understanding between the High Courts of the UK and Pakistan. It is not legally binding, but rather an informal framework for judges in both judiciaries to help return abducted children to their normal place of residence. The Government fully support the aims of the Protocol. Paragraph 7 of the Protocol

"recommended that the respective governments of the UK and Pakistan give urgent consideration to identifying or establishing an administrative service to facilitate or oversee the resolution of child abduction cases".

For the UK we have a dedicated child abduction section within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. We continue to seek ways to enhance the practical application of the Protocol. To this end we are supporting a conference to be held in Islamabad next year bringing together senior members of both the UK and Pakistan judiciaries, as well as UK and Pakistani officials, and non-governmental representatives.

Pakistan: Detainees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* status of those held in detention following the declaration of a state of emergency in Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [163892]

David Miliband: I made clear in a statement to the House on 7 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 130-32, that we condemn the mass detentions of politicians, lawyers and human rights activists, and call for their immediate release. It is vital that the Government of Pakistan act quickly to restore the Constitution, hold free and fair elections on schedule, honour the President's commitment to step down as Army Chief and lift restrictions on the media.

It is not possible to put an exact figure on the number of people detained following the declaration of the state of emergency. There are various estimates ranging from a few hundred to several thousand. The situation is very fluid. Some of the detainees have been released. The detainees are being held in a wide variety of locations. Many are under house arrest, while some are imprisoned in jails and other facilities. The Pakistani authorities have used detention orders in some cases, but the legal status of the other detainees is not known.

Our high commission in Islamabad has raised its concern for the welfare and safety of all those in detention at the highest levels. Close attention is being paid to their treatment and preparations are under way to visit or contact as many as possible.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* nature and *(b)* financial value was of (i) military and (ii) other assistance given to the Pakistani Government in each of the last three financial years; what the planned expenditure for each category is in the (A) current and (B) next financial year; which elements of assistance are under review following the suspension of the Pakistani constitution; and if he will make a statement on other areas of bilateral co-operation. [162096]

David Miliband *[holding answer 12 November 2007]*: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, through the Global Opportunity Fund (GOF), bilateral programme budgets and the Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP), funds programmes which work with various levels of the Government of Pakistan. There are no plans at present to make significant changes to this year's programme, but we will continue to keep all our funding under review in the light of the State of Emergency, suspension of the constitution and related developments.

£

Fund	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
(GOF) Drugs and Crime	135,527	275,416	391,088	[1]295,730	[2]—
(GOF) Migration	67,311	175,612	97,020	282,107	[2]—
(GOF) Counter Terrorism	93,048	100,552	181,977	[1]2,322,793	[2]—
Bilateral Programme Budget	[3]—	15,928	16,597	31,306	[2]—
GCPP	19,843	0	0	0	[2]—

[1] Committed.
[2] Not yet committed.
[3] Specific figure not available.

The Serious Organised Crime Agency co-operates with the Pakistan Anti-Narcotics Force and other agencies. This co-operation includes the provision of a moderate amount of training and expertise, which currently costs the UK £100,000 per annum.

The Government, under a Home Office grant, is planning to make up to £6 million available this financial year to pay for two helicopters for the Pakistan Anti-Narcotics Force.

The Ministry of Defence has a long standing defence relationship with Pakistan. The comprehensive Defence Relations Activity Programme includes attendance by Pakistani military on UK training courses, British attendance on selected Pakistani courses, exchange visits, joint training exercises, annual staff talks, provision for visits by senior officers to Pakistan to meet their counterparts and for reciprocal visits made by Pakistani senior military to the UK. While activities are constantly reviewed throughout the course of a year, there are no plans at present to make significant changes to this year's programme. The plan for 2008-09 is under development but expected to be of a similar scale.

Fund—Defence Relations Activity Programme

	Amount
2004-05	£535,000
2005-06	£1.103 million
2006-07	£1.291 million
2007-08	£1.67 million
2008-09	[1]—

[1] Currently under development.

Department for International Development spending is covered by the reply given to the hon. Member by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 533-34 W.

Further information on bilateral co-operation can be found in my statement to the House on 7 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 130-32.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Pakistan in relation to the situation in that country; and if he will make a statement. [165140]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to the then Pakistan Prime Minister Aziz and the then Foreign Minister Kasuri on 5 November. In both cases he urged the Pakistani Government to act quickly to restore the Constitution and in particular to ensure that free and fair elections are held by 15 January 2008, that political prisoners are released, that media restrictions are lifted and that President Musharraf honours his commitment to resign as head of the Army.

My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, spoke to the then Prime Minister Aziz on 12 November when he reiterated our concerns and stressed that elections be free and fair.

I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement to the House on 7 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 130-32.

Pakistan: Taliban

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress was made on the co-ordination of border control between Afghanistan and Pakistan in the course of the meeting referred to in the answer of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 549-50W, on Pakistan: Taliban. [165549]

Dr. Howells: During the 26 July meeting in Islamabad, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and the then Foreign Minister Kasuri discussed Pakistani initiatives for border security and the need to work bilaterally and internationally in a consistent and coherent manner.

A transcript of the press statement following this meeting is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

www.fco.gov.uk.

We continue to encourage Afghanistan and Pakistan to seek ways to improve their bilateral relationship. This includes maintaining momentum after the Joint Peace Jirga in August. We also continue to work with our international partners, including in the G8, to offer assistance to both countries to work closely on border security. Such co-operation is essential if a sustainable long-term solution is to be found.

Political Parties: EU Action

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government has made to the *(a)* European Commission and *(b)* European Parliament in relation to Commission proposal COM (2007) 0364 for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council, amending Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003. [164076]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government have set out their views on this proposal in the course of a range of contacts with the European Commission and European Parliament following the presentation in July 2007.

Since July, the Government have had the opportunity to discuss this proposal with the European Commission and Members of the European Parliament in line with the terms of the Explanatory Memorandum submitted to Parliament on 23 July.

Serbia: Macedonia

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation on the border between Serbia and Macedonia; and if he will make a statement. [165375]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our assessment is that the situation along Macedonia's northern border is largely stable. Border control on Kosovo's border with Macedonia is undertaken by NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR), who have good links with the Macedonian Ministry of Interior.

There continues to be a number of sporadic incidents. But these are generally perpetrated by organised and individual criminal elements and are not of a political nature. Most recently, a significant police operation took place on 7 November around the village of Brodec targeting civilian elements, which resulted in six arrests and six fatalities. The Macedonian Ministry of Interior reported no civilian or police casualties.

Serbia: Politics and Government

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what factors underlay the decision by the EU to initial the Stabilisation and Association Accord with Serbia; and if he will make a statement. [165379]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The initialling of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with Serbia was a technical decision made by the European Commission. In taking this decision, the Commission took into consideration a report from UN War Crimes Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte, which assessed that there had been an improvement both in the search for fugitives and in the access to documents.

As the EU made clear in the conclusions of the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 18 June 2007, the pace and conclusion of the negotiations on the SAA would in particular depend on Serbia's progress in developing the necessary legislative framework and administrative capacity to implement its obligations under the Agreement, and on full co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what EU criteria have been met by Serbia which allowed it to initial a Stabilisation and Association Accord with the EU; and if he will make a statement. [165380]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave him today (UIN 165379).

Uganda State House

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the amount spent on the renovation of the Uganda State House in advance of the Queen's state visit. [165556]

Dr. Howells: We are aware that the renovations to the Ugandan State House will cost a total of US$33 million. The UK has not made any financial contribution towards these costs.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government contributed to the cost of the renovation of the Ugandan State House prior to HM Queen Elizabeth's visit. [166018]

Dr. Howells: The Government have not made a financial contribution towards the costs of the renovation of the Ugandan State House.

UN-African Union Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding commitment has been made by the international community to the UN-African Union hybrid peacekeeping force; and whether the funding has been received. [165371]

Dr. Howells: All members of the UN will fund the UN-African Union (AU) hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur (UNAMID) through their assessed contributions. Discussions of UNAMID's budget are currently underway at the UN. We continue to pay for troop rotations to the AU Mission in Sudan, which will become part of the UNAMID force.

Venezuela

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the level of *(a)* corruption, *(b)* electoral fraud and *(c)* human rights abuses in Venezuela. [165490]

Dr. Howells: Corruption is a problem in Venezuela, as the Venezuelan government acknowledges. Venezuela was ranked 162 of a total of 179 in the Transparency International corruption perception index for 2007 (down from 138th place in 2006).

The EU election monitoring mission to Venezuela for the 2006 presidential elections found that

> "the electoral process complied in general with international standards and with national legislation as regards the management of the electoral administration".

We encourage the Government of Venezuela to act on all of the mission's recommendations for future campaigns, including during the referendum on constitutional reform on 2 December, so that the people of Venezuela can take fully informed decisions in a democratic and safe environment.

As in all countries, we monitor the human rights situation in Venezuela closely. We are encouraged by the positive steps taken by the Venezuelan government to improve the basic rights of the poorest sections of society, including in medical care. There are however a number of areas of concern, including difficult conditions in Venezuelan prisons and the deteriorating crime situation in major cities, with criminals too often enjoying impunity. Along with EU partners, we have also called for the Venezuelan government to uphold freedom of speech and freedom of the press as essential elements of democracy.

Civil society has a vital role to play in ensuring the greatest possible protection of human rights and democratic values, and we will continue to work with them and the Government of Venezuela to achieve these objectives.

Wilton Park

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what conferences have been hosted by Wilton Park since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse, *(b)* titles and *(c)* names of Ministers attending and *(d)* names of private sponsors were. [164852]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Between 27 June 2007 and 14 November 2007 Wilton Park has hosted the following conferences:

- Human Trafficking : How Best to Stem the Flow;
- The EU's Institutional Future: Prospects for the Inter-governmental conference and beyond (in Warsaw);
- British-German Forum;
- Europe in the World: Developing the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy;
- What Future Priorities for the United Nations?
- Climate and energy Security: Towards a low carbon approach;
- Working with Libya today: International and economic relations—perspectives for change;
- Atlantic Youth Forum;
- Curbing Money Laundering: International Challenges;
- Energy Security in the European Union: The Eastern and Baltic Dimension (in Latvia);
- Countering Chemical and Biological Weapons (CBW) Proliferation;
- Polar Regions: Challenges and Possibilities;
- Migration: Towards a Coherent Policy (w/Euroforum in Spain);
- Democracy for development;
- Understanding deradicalisation; and
- Conflict prevention and development co-operation in Africa: A policy workshop.

Wilton Park is an Executive Agency of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). Wilton Park's financial target is to recover its running costs each year, although the FCO annually provides funding for capital costs at Wilton Park and strategic sponsorship of £123,000 per year.

In financial year 2006-07, Wilton Park achieved its financial target. As Wilton Park is an Executive Agency of the FCO, there are arrangements in place for the FCO to cover any shortfall in the annual funding of Wilton Park.

The following Ministers have attended Wilton Park between 27 June 2007 and 14 November 2007:-

my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Kim Howells;

my noble Friend the right hon. Baroness Amos;

my right hon. Friend the Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing, Tony McNulty, and my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown.

The following private sponsors provided support for the Wilton Park conferences during this period:-

FCO

Office of the Committee for European Integration, Warsaw

The European Centre-Natolin

UN Foundation

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership

Shell Libya

Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

US Dept of State—Bureau of Arms Control

Ministerio de Trabajo y Asuntos Sociales, Spain

Euroforum

Manpower

World Bank Institute

Department for International Development

Home Office

UN Development Programme Africa.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Residence

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what provisions are in place to provide for the safe passage of British citizens from Zimbabwe should the security situation necessitate such action. [165292]

Dr. Howells: We take very seriously our consular responsibility for all British nationals in Zimbabwe and keep Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice under constant review. There have been no incidents recently that prompt us to consider that the threat to British nationals has increased significantly. We have contingency arrangements in place, as we do for many other countries, should the security situation change. These focus on British nationals leaving Zimbabwe by public and private means.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Security

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account is taken of security of supply by his Department in formulating policy relating to support for UK agriculture. [164699]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA takes the issue of food security very seriously. Food security is about ensuring consumers have access to a stable and adequate supply of food. In December 2006, DEFRA published a wide-ranging study of food security which concluded that the UK, being a rich, open economy, has a very robust and diverse food supply.

A key objective of our vision for farming is for British consumption of British food to come from the skills, innovation, investment, branding, and quality assurance of a market-focused farming industry. DEFRA's Farming For the Future programme will help create the right conditions to achieve this vision.

The UK has long been a net importer of food and the Government believe that an important element in facilitating national and international food security is improved trading relationships based on more open international markets and reductions in trade distorting subsidies.

We will continue to monitor key indicators of our food security. These include the level of diversity of our trading partners, trends in world commodity markets, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations' analysis of trends in global food production and demand as well as the level of self sufficiency for the EU as a whole (which is currently over 90 per cent.).

We recognise too that our food chain relies on various forms of energy and that energy security is a primary concern. The Government's Energy White Paper (May 2007), specifically considers how our energy security can be maintained and enhanced in an uncertain world.

Animal Welfare

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Home Affairs and the Lord Chancellor on the implementation of section 281(5) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 in relation to section 32 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. [165961]

Jonathan Shaw: Post-conviction powers are the responsibility of the Home Office to implement. However, DEFRA officials hold regular discussions, on this and a range of other issues, with stakeholders and colleagues in other Government Departments.

Beaches: EU Law

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what standard will be adopted as the minimum acceptable for UK bathing waters under the revised bathing water directive when it comes into force in March 2008. [165350]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The revised bathing water directive requires that all UK bathing waters must achieve at least the 'sufficient' classification (with limited exceptions) by the end of the 2015 bathing season. The 'sufficient' standard is more stringent than the 'mandatory' standard, the minimum to be achieved under the current bathing water directive.

DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government have recently launched a joint consultation putting forward proposals for the implementation of the revised directive in England and Wales which can be found on the DEFRA website.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of bathing waters tested by the Environment Agency in the most recent year for which figures are available would be classified as *(a)* poor, *(b)* satisfactory, *(c)* good and *(d)* excellent under the revised bathing water directive which comes into force in March 2008. [165351]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The Environment Agency has used its bathing water quality monitoring data from 2003 to 2006 to assess the compliance rate that might be expected in England under the revised bathing water directive (see following table). These predictions are necessarily made on the assumption that no further action is taken to improve bathing water quality between now and when the first classifications under the revised bathing water directive are expected to be made at the end of the 2015 bathing season. However, measures will continue to be taken in the catchments of some bathing waters to ensure they comply with the requirements of both the current and revised bathing water directives.

Classification	*Number of bathing waters*
Excellent	213
Good	110
Sufficient	52
Poor	33
Total	408

Beaches: Facilities

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the statutory obligations of local authorities are on the management and provision of facilities on beaches; [165352]

(2) what guidance is available to local authorities on the development of management plans for beaches. [165353]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* My Department does not have responsibility for statutory obligations on local authorities for facilities on beaches, nor does it produce guidance on the development of management plans for beaches. DEFRA has however recently updated guidance on Shoreline Management Plans and is currently funding a review of all such plans around the coast. Shoreline Management Plans provide a large-scale assessment of the flood and erosion risks associated with coastal processes and present a long-term policy framework to reduce these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner. Guidance may also be provided by other organisations.

Under section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 local authorities have a duty to keep their relevant land clear of litter and refuse, which includes parts of the beach above the high water mark. There are other controls in place to deal with litter and waste in marine environments below the high water mark, but local authorities are advised to monitor and clean these areas as appropriate.

In addition, there are a number of voluntary schemes in the UK including the Blue Flag Scheme, the Seaside Awards and the Good Beach Guide. The Blue Flag Scheme is administered by ENCAMS in the UK and its criteria for 2008 includes standards for environmental education and information, water quality, environmental management, and safety and services.

Bluetongue Disease

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice he has received on the likelihood of uninfected midges becoming infected in 2008 from biting ruminants which have recovered from bluetongue disease. [163461]

Jonathan Shaw: Advice on the scientific aspects of the disease is provided by DEFRA's Expert Group on Bluetongue. Current advice is that over a winter period large numbers of midges are killed at low temperatures. However, some of the northern species of midges do survive, and may potentially breed. Although the virus is present in midges for only a limited time, animals, particularly infected cattle, may retain the virus in their body for 60 days or more. This means that the bluetongue virus can be sustained over the winter period.

Last year, Europe had a mild winter. This supported midge activity, and low levels of disease circulation were possible throughout the winter. A similar situation is possible in the UK this winter. DEFRA (in conjunction with scientists from the Institute for Animal Health at Pirbright, the European Union, and the World Community Reference Laboratory for Bluetongue), will continue to monitor and review the situation in light of the latest information and research from affected countries.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for blood-testing of ruminants outside the bluetongue protection zone to establish the spread of disease. [163462]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has put in place measures to minimise the risks of disease spread, in line with EU legislation and the UK Bluetongue Control Strategy.

Surveillance is ongoing in the Protection and Surveillance zones and includes clinical inspections and testing of susceptible animals. At the present time, blood testing of ruminants outside the Protection Zone (originally termed the Control Zone) is concentrated on animals that had been moved out of the Protection Zone into the Surveillance Zone and the Free Area outside of the zones during the period of infection risk before movement controls were applied. In addition, animals exhibiting clinical signs associated with bluetongue which are reported to Animal Health are being tested. It remains vitally important that farmers maintain their vigilance in checking their animals and report any suspect cases of disease, particularly as clinical signs may be similar to foot and mouth disease.

Bluetongue Disease: Disease Control

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place to provide him with interim assessments of the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* proportionality of restrictions

on farmers' commercial operations introduced as part of initiatives to control bluetongue; and if he will make a statement. [161900]

Jonathan Shaw: We work closely with a Core Group of industry stakeholders to help formulate proposals, seek solutions and hear views on the effectiveness and proportionality of bluetongue control measures. Members of the Group include senior individuals from the following organisations, attending in a personal capacity: National Beef Association, British Veterinary Association, Livestock Auctioneers Association, National Farmers Union, National Sheep Association and British Meat Processors Association.

With this Core Group, we are reviewing the disease situation and control strategy in order to ensure it is proportionate to the disease risks. In doing so, full account is taken of the latest epidemiological and veterinary assessments, and analysis of costs and benefits of disease control measures and their likely economic impacts. In addition, Animal Health is undertaking a comprehensive disease surveillance programme, which enables us to monitor the disease situation.

We are keeping the control measures under review as the bluetongue disease situation develops. We are very conscious that we must balance the need to reduce the pressure on the industry with the overriding objective of controlling the spread of this disease.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that farmers and their representative organisations have the most up-to-date information available on the *(a)* details, *(b)* implications and *(c)* likely timetable of measures to control the bluetongue outbreak. [161901]

Jonathan Shaw: It is a priority for DEFRA Ministers and officials to work closely with, and listen to, farmers and the leaders of industry during the bluetongue outbreak. DEFRA works closely with a wide range of farming industry stakeholders on a daily basis to ensure effective communication with farmers. Stakeholders have been kept in touch with the latest developments by email updates and regular telephone conferences. One of the major issues currently being discussed is the scope of the future control measures that we need, including the question of whether to extend the existing zones to cover a wider area. This will depend on the epidemiological situation and an assessment of the implications of our current measures.

All registered keepers of livestock within the bluetongue protection and surveillance zones were contacted within 24 hours of the zones being declared. Since the start of the bluetongue outbreak on 28 September, approximately 200,000 information messages have been sent to livestock keepers subject to movement restrictions. These include approximately 140,000 voicemail messages, text messages, e-mails and facsimiles. In addition, approximately 50,000 information packs have been sent to registered livestock keepers. Animal Health has also launched a public voice-recorded information line, which is intended to serve an audience who are unable to access the DEFRA website. Currently, the DEFRA Helpline is also available seven days a week for all queries relating to bluetongue.

DEFRA officials are keen to receive any specific proposals from stakeholders and livestock keepers about how communication methods could be further improved in the event of a disease outbreak.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will introduce measures for the testing and moving of continent bulls under special licence alongside measures to control the bluetongue outbreak. [161902]

Jonathan Shaw: We assume the hon. Gentleman is referring to the movement of domestic breeding stock.

All ruminants are subject to current bluetongue control measures, as outlined in EU and domestic legislation and the UK Bluetongue Control Strategy.

We are considering whether it is possible to introduce practical measures that can mitigate the risk of disease spread if susceptible animals are moved out of the restricted zone to live. The conditions set out in the new Commission Regulation to allow such movements are very stringent and not easy to implement. They include the testing of animals and the protection of animals from disease vectors.

Through close partnership with industry stakeholders, we are keeping all movement controls under review as the disease situation develops. We are very conscious that we must balance the need to reduce the pressure on the industry with the overriding objective of controlling bluetongue.

Bluetongue Disease: Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on the farming industry of measures put in place to control bluetongue with particular reference to the movement and sale of pedigree *(a)* sheep and *(b)* cattle in (i) Shropshire and (ii) Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury; and if he will make a statement. [162223]

Jonathan Shaw: Assessments have been made, on the livestock industry as a whole, of the impact of current disease control measures. These assessments are informing DEFRA's cost/benefit analysis of those measures. Separate assessments of the effect on the pedigree sheep and cattle markets in Shropshire or Montford Bridge have not been made as these would be subject to considerable margins of error.

In agreement with a core group of industry stakeholders, DEFRA remains committed to a disease control approach which aims to contain disease within the current control and protection zones, in line with 'Phase 1' of the UK Bluetongue Control Strategy. This takes into account the epidemiological situation, the time of year (coming towards the end of the vector season), and the cost benefit analysis of disease control measures and their likely economic impacts.

This assessment remains under constant review, and recognises that efforts to contain disease may become disproportionate to the costs to industry, and therefore the strategy may have to change. However, using the above assessment, this point has not yet been reached.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of tendering for bluetongue vaccine; [163456]

(2) when he expects to issue a formal tender for a bluetongue vaccine bank; [163458]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of doses of bluetongue vaccine which will be necessary to eradicate the disease from the UK; [163459]

(4) what plans he has for a vaccination strategy for bluetongue disease when a vaccine becomes available. [163460]

Jonathan Shaw: On 1 November, my Department issued a tender to supply between 10 and 20 million doses of bluetongue vaccine for a vaccine bank. We also announced that this decision had been taken on the same day. The tender closes on 15 November and an order will be placed as soon as possible after that date, once we have assessed the bids submitted.

This step has been taken on the advice of the Acting Chief Veterinary Officer and the core group of bluetongue stakeholders, in light of the potential benefits that vaccination could provide in managing disease should it re-appear next year. Further work is also being carried out by the farming industry on the likely take-up of that vaccine if a scheme were to be voluntary, although that decision has not yet been taken. This work will inform our final decision on the numbers of doses required.

The cost of establishing the vaccine bank will be dependent on the size of the order placed and the outcome of the tendering process. No assessment has been made of the cost of the tender process itself.

We are developing a detailed vaccination plan with bluetongue scientific experts, representatives of the farming industry and others setting out how a vaccination programme would work. This plan will be needed to seek the approval of the European Commission to vaccinate. Discussions are also taking place with the European Commission and other member states.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when a decision will be made on the proposed policy of badger culling. [166161]

Jonathan Shaw: The question of whether badger culling has a role to play in controlling bovine TB in cattle is complex.

The Secretary of State has been clear that the next step is for the DEFRA ministerial team to have discussions with interested parties, including Professor John Bourne, former Chair of the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB, and the Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir David King. We also wish to take into account the views from the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee following its inquiry into badgers and bovine TB.

While we are keen to make progress on reaching a decision, there is no specific timetable for doing so.

Committee on Climate Change

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who the members are of the Committee on Climate Change; and when he expects it to meet. [164784]

Mr. Woolas: The Chair and Members of the Committee on Climate Change have not yet been appointed. The Committee is being established in 'shadow' form ahead of Royal Assent of the Climate Change Bill, to ensure that it is able to fully consider its advice on the level of the first three carbon budgets before 1 September 2008 (as required by the Bill).

The positions available on the 'shadow' Committee have been advertised and the recruitment process is ongoing. A date for appointments has not yet been decided, but we anticipate that the 'shadow' Committee will wish to hold its first meeting shortly after appointment.

Dairy Farming: Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely impact on the small scale intensive dairy farming in England of the 230 kg nitrogen limit in relation to grassland. [164609]

Jonathan Shaw: The partial regulatory impact assessment (RIA) and supporting paper "G4 - Assistance in the partial RIA including extended Nitrate Vulnerable Zones" provides details of my Department's assessment of the likely impact on farming in England of the proposed Nitrates Action Programme measures. These documents are available on the DEFRA website.

The assessments estimate the likely cost to the dairy sector of implementing the 170 kg N/ha/yr (nitrogen/hectares/year) whole farm limit for livestock manures as approximately £16.5 - £21.5 million each year.

These costs would be reduced if my Department was successful in obtaining a derogation from this limit.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to complete his review of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991; when he expects to announce the outcome of that review; and if he will make a statement. [164829]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* Following recent tragic incidents involving dog attacks on children this year, we have undertaken a review of the dangerous dogs legislation. Officials consulted all chief police officers in England and Wales to find out their views on how effective the dangerous dogs legislation is, what could be done to improve enforcement and whether any parts of the law need to be changed. Officials discussed the results of this consultation with the Association of Chief Constables (ACPO).

In the light of this consultation, we believe that the priority is for existing law to be more effectively enforced rather than introducing new legislation. Officials will work closely with the police service, local authorities and animal welfare organisations to achieve this.

All dogs, not just those types banned under the dangerous dogs legislation, may present a risk to the public if they are not properly looked after. There is already robust law in place to deal with the problem of dogs that are out of control in public places. But there is a limit to how far laws, however well written they may be, can tackle the small minority of dog owners who are either irresponsible or, for other reasons, find it difficult to look after their animals properly. I therefore welcome the work being done by those animal welfare organisations that go out and offer practical advice and help to those who are having difficulties. I believe this is the best way of effectively fostering a more responsible attitude to dog ownership in this country.

I know that some feel that the law relating to dog attacks in the home should be strengthened. I am not convinced that changing the existing law would help those who enforce the law or administer justice, or reduce the number of attacks that take place in domestic places. This is an area that we will keep under close review and, if necessary, we will make changes to the law if we think that this will reduce these very distressing incidents that occur within a family context.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that English wine is served exclusively or at the request of guests at meals, parties and receptions hosted by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [164301]

Jonathan Shaw: All public procurement procedures must comply with the EC treaty. The key principles of the treaty, from a public procurement point of view, are the free movement of goods and services, and non-discrimination on the grounds of nationality. This legislation is designed to ensure that all public procurement across the European Union is fair, transparent and non-discriminatory.

This means that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs cannot specify that it will only buy goods (e.g. wine) from a particular country or locality, as that would discriminate against producers from other EU member states.

However, the Government are committed to increasing opportunities for small and local suppliers to tender for contracts, thus increasing competition and securing better value for money. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs does this by requesting catering service providers to demonstrate their policy on the development of small to medium enterprises.

The hon. Member may wish to refer to the joint DEFRA/OGC guidance on incorporating environmental considerations into purchasing in the "Joint Note on Environmental Issues in Purchasing" at:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/environmental_issues-defra.pdf

More detailed guidance on food procurement, including the issue of 'local sourcing' can be found on Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative section of the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/index.htm

and the DEFRA Catering Services and Food Procurement Toolkit link at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/toolkit.htm .

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many civil servants in his Department *(a)* transferred to other Government Departments and *(b)* left the Civil Service in each of the last five years. [162739]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle) on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 203W.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the full-time equivalent headcount in his Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for his Department is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [163978]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on DEFRA's current full-time equivalent headcount is available from the quarterly workforce statistics published by ONS:

www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/psc0907.pdf.

No information is available on the headcount figures for 2008-09 and 2009-10 as DEFRA has not yet have finalised its workforce forward projections.

Diabrotica Virgifera

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department plans to take to control the outbreaks of Diabrotica virgifera to the west of London, following the public consultation; [164681]

(2) what steps his Department *(a)* has planned, *(b)* is pursuing and *(c)* has completed to identify the origin of the outbreak of Diabrotica virgifera to the west of London; [164682]

(3) whether his Department *(a)* has used and *(b)* plans to use DNA profiling techniques to help to identify the origin of the outbreak of Diabrotica virgifera to the west of London; and if he will make a statement. [164683]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* Diabrotica virgifera, the western corn rootworm (WCR), is a serious pest that is listed in EC plant health legislation.

Investigations into the origins of the populations of WCR found in the south-east of England are very difficult because the means by which it was introduced are unclear. There is circumstantial evidence to suggest that WCR is spread by aircraft since outbreaks have been closely associated with airports throughout

Europe. However, to date, no studies have been carried out on the presence of potentially invasive insects on aircraft.

A study is being carried out to assess the feasibility of using DMA genetic markers to identify entry pathways of invasive pests such as WCR. The results are due to be published soon. However, they indicate that the cases in the UK have been introduced from at least two sources, linked to populations in the USA and eastern Europe. Other published studies have also suggested at least three independent introductions of this pest into Europe from North America during the past two decades.

Crop rotation is the most effective means of controlling WCR and enforced rotation of maize crops is required under statutory notice in infected areas of the UK, in line with the EU legislation. A range of alternative management options for the control or eradication of WCR have been used in areas where the pest occurs, including foliar insecticide treatments for use against adult beetles. Unfortunately, there are no effective methods of spraying such insecticides in the UK, since aerial application is not possible around airports and high clearance sprayers are not generally available. Insecticide seed treatments may exert a limited degree of control against larvae in the soil but will not eradicate the pest. Since the pathway for entry of WCR remains unidentified and hence uncontrolled, the possibility of further introductions remains high. Public consultation has been completed to determine future policy regarding this pest, taking account of EU legislation and recent survey results, and the outcome will be published shortly.

Disease Control: Pirbright

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whose responsibility it is to repair the faulty drains at the Pirbright Research Laboratory in Surrey; and when he expects this work to be carried out. [162993]

Jonathan Shaw: Those responsible for repairing the drains are the Institute of Animal Health (IAH), the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) (which owns the land and buildings on the Pirbright site) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills as the IAH's and BBSRC's sponsoring Department.

Remedial action was taken immediately after the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) reported on a survey of the drainage system on 17 August, and was followed by further work, which was completed and independently validated and tested by 4 November 2007. Details of the work to repair the system, and an Improvement Plan to implement recommendations made by HSE and Professor Spratt in their respective reports on the disease outbreak, were published in the Government's Response to the reports on 7 September and is available on the DEFRA website.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has investigated whether there was any deliberate release of foot and mouth from the Pirbright Centre. [163271]

Jonathan Shaw: Investigations into the cause of the foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak have considered a number of possible scenarios, including the possibility of deliberate release of the pathogen. Professor Spratt recognised in his report, published on 7 September 2007, that identifying the source of an outbreak of this kind with any certainty is always likely to be inconclusive, unless some gross and obvious breakdown in a safety critical feature has occurred. He concluded that there were no indications of deliberate release, and that the most likely cause of the outbreak was release of infectious FMD virus from the effluent pipes.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has commissioned on the reasons why householders install *(a)* energy efficiency methods and *(b)* micro-renewable technologies. [163636]

Mr. Woolas: We have an ongoing programme of research to develop our evidence and understanding of what motivates individuals to take action to reduce their environmental impacts. This work helps underpin the measures and policies at the heart of our climate change programme.

Key research projects include:

(i) regular annual surveys on public attitudes towards the environment, with the results of the 2007 survey published on 15 August;

(ii) "Public Understanding of Sustainable Energy Use in the Home", which will be published on 19 November;

(iii) a project to develop the new DEFRA 'segmentation model', which seeks to understand what motivates the actions of different individuals; what information is helpful and how is it understood; and the extent to which people take personal responsibility for their climate change impacts.

In general terms, our research has shown that key motivators for householders investing in energy efficiency and microgeneration measures are the 'feel good' factor; being seen to be doing the 'right thing'; and personal financial benefit.

Flood Control: Gloucester

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the proposed Hunts Grove settlement, near Gloucester, is *(a)* in the flood plain and *(b)* likely to have an impact on the adjacent flood plains. [163272]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency has confirmed that the Hunts Grove development site near Gloucester does not lie in a floodplain location shown on their Flood Map. The Agency has been involved in the planning consultation process for the development since 2005, and in March 2007, advised the local planning authority, Stroud district council, that the development was deemed to be acceptable.

The development is not considered at risk of flooding from the nearby Shorn Brook. Surface water drainage is to be managed using sustainable drainage techniques to restrict discharge of surface water to existing levels present on site. This includes measures to account for the potential effects of climate change.

which is in accordance with current flood risk planning policy (PPS25) to prevent any increase in flooding and flood risk elsewhere from pluvial sources.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has had discussions with local authorities in Gloucestershire on whether the flooding in summer 2007 is likely to cause a re-assessment of where to place new residential developments. [163273]

Mr. Woolas: Current development in England follows the Communities and Local Government planning policy statement 25 "Development and Flood Risk".

The Environment Agency are using data from the summer floods in their assessments and will continue to work with local planning authorities to prevent inappropriate development taking place in areas at risk from flooding.

Flood Control: Planning

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on construction industry contracts for flood defences for *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* England and Wales in each of the last five years. [163751]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency has provided details of how much it spent on construction industry contracts for flood defences in the five years to 2006-07.

Expenditure for the Agency's north east region is based on a review of project types in year-end financial reports for the Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee area. England and Wales data reflects expenditure through National Engineering and Environmental Consultancy Agreement (consultant) and National Framework Contractor frameworks. Flood management is a devolved function and my Department has policy responsibility only for funding in England.

NE region contract expenditure	*Total (£000)*
2002-03	23,106
2003-04	17,799
2004-05	16,157
2005-06	22,150
2006-07	14,480

England and Wales	*Total (£000)*
2002-03	54,300
2003-04	129,400
2004-05	133,000
2005-06	148,300
2006-07	155,200

Source:
England and Wales
2002-03—from national capital programme management service spend records.
2003-04—from end of year procurement statistics. Total framework supplier spend used as spend data is not split out by framework contract.
2004-07—from end of year procurement statistics. Data specific to National Engineering and Environmental Consultancy Agreement and National Framework Contractor frameworks.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will consider having a direct contact point for the construction industry in the Environment Agency on flood defences and other infrastructures that affect coastal, river and pluvial flooding. [163753]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency maintains a large number of contacts with the construction industry, utilities and other operators at a host of levels (both nationally and regionally) on a broad range of operational, policy and process topics. These contacts include relationships with professional bodies such as the Institution of Civil Engineers, CIWEM and trade associations such as the Civil Engineering Contractors Association and the Association of Consulting Engineers.

Major flood risk management schemes delivered by the Environment Agency are primarily promoted through its long-term framework contracts. These partnerships have established communications protocols that allow the supply chain direct access to senior procurement and capital programme management staff.

In short, because the nature of these contacts is particularly diverse, the Environment Agency does not feel that it is practical or beneficial to nominate a single contact for the construction industry.

Flood Control: Utilities

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to give *(a)* electricity sub-stations and *(b)* water treatment infrastructure greater protection from flooding. [163750]

Mr. Woolas: The operators of electricity and water supply infrastructure are responsible for contingency planning to ensure continuity of service in the event of hazards such as flooding.

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) has requested that electricity network operators should review the resilience of electricity substations to flooding. This work is underway under the leadership of the Energy Networks Association. The outcome will be reported to the Energy Minister via the Energy Emergency Executive, a joint BERR, Ofgem and Industry forum. The water industry has appointed Sir John Baker to chair an industry wide review on how to reduce the impacts of future flooding on water customers, including the vulnerability of water infrastructure to climate change.

Both reviews will help inform Sir Michael Pitt's independent review of the summer's flooding which, among other things, is looking at the vulnerability of critical infrastructure, including its ability to withstand flooding and what improvements might be made.

Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of the flooding in summer 2007 was due to *(a)* river flooding and *(b)* surface water flooding. [161891]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency estimates that, of the domestic and commercial properties affected by flooding during summer 2007, one third were flooded from rivers and two thirds from other sources, predominantly surface water.

Floods: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the effect of increased rat infestations in North Yorkshire following the floods this summer. [162029]

Mr. Woolas: The Department has not received any representations on this subject.

Floods: Thurrock

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the vulnerability of Thurrock to flooding from surge tide in the Thames following the high tides on 8 and 9 November; and if he will make a statement. [165057]

Mr. Woolas: The flood defences at Thurrock are designed to protect against a one in 1,000 annual probability tidal event. The recent surge at Great Yarmouth was estimated to be a one in 40 event.

The Environment Agency has inspected the defences along the Thames frontage at Thurrock following the recent surge and no damage has been sustained.

Floods: Yorkshire and the Humber

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of the length of the main rivers running through Yorkshire have flood protection. [162179]

Mr. Woolas: Approximately 35 per cent. of the length of main rivers in Yorkshire have raised flood defences. Flood protection is also provided by natural high ground and by the capacity of the channel.

Environment agency figures show that 1171 km of hard defences exist in urban areas, out of a total length of 3322 km of river.

Foie Gras

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much foie gras was imported into the United Kingdom in each of the last five years. [165252]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The table shows the value and volume of foie gras (recorded as preparations of goose or duck liver containing 75 per cent. or more by weight of fatty livers by HMRC) imported into the UK from 2002 to August 2007.

UK imports of preparations of goose or duck liver containing 75 per cent. or more by weight of fatty livers, 2002 to August 2007

	Tonnes	£000
2002	56	658
2003	83	787
2004	157	716
2005	119	777
2006	127	994
January to August 2007	88	418

Note:
2007 data is subject to amendments.
Source:
H M Revenue and Customs. Data prepared by Trade statistics, Agricultural Statistics and Analysis Division, DEFRA

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what sanctions apply to people producing foie gras in Great Britain; and how many convictions for this offence have taken place in the last three years. [165253]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* Foie gras is not produced in the UK and this Government have made its views very clear that the production of foie gras using force feeding gives rise to serious welfare concerns. If any production were to occur, Animal Health would be asked to investigate and advise on any contravention of UK animal welfare laws.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to ban the sale of foie gras in the UK. [166282]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has no plans to ban the sale of foie gras in the UK. The free movement of goods is a well established principle in Community law and is enshrined in Part III, Title I of the treaty establishing the European Community (TEC). A unilateral ban by the UK on the import or sale of foie gras would contravene the provisions of the TEC and would result in proceedings being brought against us before the European Court of Justice. Ultimately, it is down to consumers to decide if they want to purchase foie gras or not.

Food: Labelling

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to include information on food miles in food labelling; and if he will make a statement. [164720]

Jonathan Shaw: Food miles alone, or the distance food has travelled, is an incomplete way of judging whether the food we eat is sustainable. Research shows that, on its own, distance travelled is not a sufficient indicator of the environmental impact of food transport. I therefore have no plans to press for food miles to be included on food labelling.

Foot and Mouth Disease: South West Region

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the financial impact of the recent outbreak of foot and mouth and bluetongue disease on farmers in the South West. [162035]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's current best estimate of the economic cost to the UK livestock sector of the movement restrictions and the ban on exports, imposed as a result of the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease and bluetongue, is £100 million. Disaggregated estimates of the cost to farmers in the south west of England have not been made as these would be subject to considerable margins of error.

Fuel Poverty: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's target is on eliminating fuel poverty. [162062]

Mr. Woolas: The Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 places a statutory duty on the Secretary of State, so far as England is concerned, to prepare and publish

> "a strategy setting out his policies for ensuring, by means including the taking of measures to ensure the efficient use of energy, that as far as reasonably practicable persons do not live in fuel poverty".

A similar duty is placed on Welsh Ministers.

The Act requires this duty to be met by a target date which is not more than 15 years after the date on which the strategy is published. The Government are working towards reducing fuel poverty so far as is reasonably practicable in England and Wales by 2016 and 2018 respectively. The Scottish Fuel Poverty Statement published in 2002 sets out the target that the Scottish Government will ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, that people are not living in fuel poverty in Scotland by 2016.

In Northern Ireland, the Department for Social Development and its partners, subject to the availability of the necessary resources, aim to eliminate fuel poverty in all households by 2016. There is no underpinning legislation.

Game: Birds

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to ban the use of metal battery cages used for the rearing of gamebirds for shooting. [165428]

Jonathan Shaw: Gamebirds reared for sporting purposes are covered by the Animal Welfare Act 2006. DEFRA is proposing to use powers under the Act to produce a Code of Practice for the breeding and rearing of gamebirds, which will provide guidance on both accommodation and management methods. Any code would be subject to pubic consultation and endorsement by Parliament.

DEFRA is aware that there are concerns about the use of cages, or raised laying units as they are known to the industry, for the breeding of gamebirds. Therefore, we have asked the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) to assess this system of management and report back on its findings. It is anticipated that the report will be ready by the summer of 2008 and will inform the Working Group about this type of breeding system, and the extent to which any identified problems can be addressed through a code of practice.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Grants

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many grants under the Home Energy Efficiency (Warm Front) Scheme have been offered to householders in *(a)* England, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* Torridge and West Devon; and how many of those grants have been taken up by the applicants. [164822]

Mr. Woolas: During the financial year 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, Warm Front provided grants to 253,079 households. Of these, 19,424 were in the South West and 511 were in Torridge and West Devon.

For the same period, 99 per cent. of householders offered a grant in England accepted. Of the 1 per cent. who did not, 96 per cent. had received a grant previously.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what Eaga's average administration cost was for grants made under the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (Warm Front) in the latest period for which figures are available. [164910]

Mr. Woolas: For reasons of commercial sensitivity, we are unable to provide this information.

Insurance Companies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to revise the Statement of Principles with the insurance industry. [163752]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. member to the answer I gave her on 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 14W.

Interdepartmental Working Group on British Waterways

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he expects the first meeting of the Interdepartmental Working Group on British Waterways to take place; and if he will make a statement; [165476]

(2) with reference to the answer of 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 724W, which of his ministerial colleagues have responded to his letter on the Interdepartmental Working Group on British Waterways; and if he will make a statement; [165477]

(3) what response his Department received from the Department for *(a)* Culture, Media and Sport, *(b)* Health, *(c)* Transport and *(d)* Communities and Local Government to the letter sent by the Minister for Marine, Landscape and Rural Affairs on the Interdepartmental Working Group on British Waterways; and if he will make a statement. [166202]

Jonathan Shaw: So far I have received positive responses from the Secretaries of State for Transport, Health, Communities and Local Government, and Culture, Media and Sport. The inaugural meeting of the Interdepartmental Working Group is scheduled for 18 December 2007.

Lamb: Imports

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any special economic arrangements exist between the UK and New Zealand on the import of New Zealand lamb to the UK; and if he will make a statement. [164719]

Jonathan Shaw: A trade agreement for the import of sheepmeat between the European Union and New Zealand does exist and is commonly known as a Voluntary Restraint Agreement. In return for a reduction in import duties, New Zealand restricts the amount they send to the Community to 228,000 tonnes a year.

Under this agreement, the UK can import sheepmeat from New Zealand. In 2006, the UK imported 83,400 tonnes of lamb from New Zealand, taking the largest share of the total EU imports of 190,000 tonnes. Up to the end of August this year, UK imports from New Zealand were 7 per cent. higher than in 2006 (at around 69,000 tonnes).

Lamb: Prices

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of lamb prices on farming incomes between June 2007 and October 2007; and if he will make a statement. [164717]

Jonathan Shaw: Between June 2007 and October 2007, the sheep Standard Quality Quotation price averaged 223.8 pence per kg deadweight. The same price in the corresponding period in 2006 was 244.9 pence. This represents a year on year decline of around 9 per cent. There has been some year on year increase in carcase weights over the same months which will have partially offset the impact of the price fall. The year on year fall in the value of finished lambs is likely to be around 5 per cent. or £2 to £3 per lamb, at UK level for the marketing year ending in October 2007.

Lamb prices have declined more steeply than usual in the autumn of 2007 compared to previous years. The average deadweight price for lambs fell by 86p between June and October 2007 (a 34 per cent. decrease) compared to 92.3 pence in 2006 (a 27 per cent. decrease).

In January DEFRA will be publishing forecasts of farm incomes in England for the year ending February 2008. This will include separate forecasts for lowland and LFA grazing livestock farms and the income forecasts will include the impact of changes in lamb prices between 2006 and 2007.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average lamb prices paid to farmers were in each month in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [164718]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows average lamb prices for Great Britain for January to October 2007 collected by the Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC).

Producer prices are for live animals sold at auction markets for slaughter. Deadweight prices are for carcases of animals sold direct to slaughter.

Great Britain Average Monthly Standard Quality Quotation Prices for Lamb for 2007

	Producer Prices (pence per kg liveweight)	*Deadweight Prices (pence per kg deadweight)*
January	103.53	229.2
February	110.46	242.0
March	118.13	257.3
April	112.49	250.4
May	112.95	250.5
June	119.00	265.1
July	115.32	259.5
August	108.19	242.4
September	94.21	226.3
October	76.77	207.7

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the difference between what farmers are paid for lambs and other livestock and what consumers are charged for meat products in supermarkets; and if he will make a statement. [164722]

Jonathan Shaw: "Agriculture in the United Kingdom", published annually by DEFRA, compares the farmgate price with the retail price for lamb and other meats. In 2006, the farmgate price for lamb amounted to 47 per cent. of the retail price.

DEFRA has also commissioned London Economics to carry out research into farm retail price spreads. Both this study and "Agriculture in the United Kingdom" are available on the DEFRA website.

Livestock: Disease Control

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the issue of contagious diseases affecting livestock; and if he will make a statement; [163995]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on plans to compensate farmers in Wales who have made losses due to the restriction on the movement of their cattle introduced as a consequence of the recent foot and mouth outbreak; and if he will make a statement; [163996]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on provisions to contain any further outbreaks of bluetongue and foot and mouth disease in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement; [163997]

(4) what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the possibility of foot and mouth disease and bluetongue entering Welsh farming stock; and if he will make a statement. [163998]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government are working closely with the devolved administrations to co-ordinate the disease control response throughout Great Britain. Officials in the Welsh Assembly Government are actively involved in policy decisions for foot and mouth disease (FMD), bluetongue and now avian influenza, and in reviewing the disease control strategies.

Certain functions under the Animal Health Act 1981, including disease control functions, were transferred to the National Assembly for Wales under the Transfer of Functions Order 2004 (SI 2004/3044) and are now the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government. The transfer of functions was not accompanied by an apportioned transfer of budgets. These are retained by DEFRA, which meets the costs of animal disease control, welfare and surveillance on behalf of Wales.

Where animals are slaughtered and property seized due directly to FMD, DEFRA meets the cost of compensatory payments, including those in respect of Wales. This does not extend to the offer of financial support for consequential loss.

The EU Commission and member states have agreed a new Decision which will allow the relaxation of current FMD export restrictions on meat and meat products. This Decision is expected to come into force in the middle of November. The current FMD restrictions will be amended and the FMD Restricted Zone in England will be lifted when this occurs. This will allow farmers in Wales to send animals for slaughter for the export market. The implementation of this decision has been developed in close consultation with officials in the Welsh Assembly Government.

The UK remains committed to an approach to the control of bluetongue which aims to contain the disease within the current restricted area, in line with 'Phase 1' of the UK Bluetongue Disease Control Strategy. This takes into account the epidemiological situation, the time of year (coming towards the end of the vector season), and the cost benefit analysis of disease control measures and their likely economic impacts. Decision-making about the placing of the surveillance zone boundaries has been shared with Welsh Assembly Government and with a core group of stakeholders.

This assessment remains under constant review with stakeholders as the bluetongue disease situation develops, and recognises that efforts to contain the disease may become disproportionate to the costs to industry, and therefore the strategy may have to change. However, using the above assessment, this point has not yet been reached.

We are very conscious that we must balance the need to reduce the pressure on the industry with the overriding objective of controlling the spread of bluetongue. We will continue to work with the devolved administrations in reviewing and implementing our bluetongue control policy.

Miscanthus Grass: Subsidies

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much subsidy is given for miscanthus grass *(a)* growing and *(b)* harvesting; and what use is made of miscanthus grass grown in Devon. [165185]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* Grant aid for miscanthus under the Energy Crops Scheme (ECS) is a one-off payment for the costs associated with establishing the crop. The rate is £920 per hectare.

There has only been one case of miscanthus grown under ECS in Devon. The end use was for fuel at the Aberthaw power station.

Nitrate Sensitive Areas

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to restore the link between the minimum storage period required for slurries and poultry manures and the risk factors for individual farms under the proposed Nitrate Vulnerable Zone Action Plan to permit shorter storage periods where there is no demonstrable environmental risk. [165192]

Mr. Woolas: The proposed Nitrates Action Programme is currently at public consultation. Following the close of the consultation on 13 December, my Department will consider carefully all comments received on the proposals before making recommendations on how to progress implementation of the policy in England.

This will include making recommendations on how to implement the proposed minimum storage capacity requirement.

A report presenting a summary of my Department's analysis of consultation responses will be published on the DEFRA website in January 2008.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to secure a derogation under the nitrate vulnerable zone regulations from the 230 kg total nitrogen limit in relation to grassland. [164608]

Mr. Woolas: My Department is preparing to submit an application to the European Commission for a derogation from the 170 kg N/ha/yr (nitrogen/hectare/year) whole farm limit for applications of livestock manure.

This is one of the more burdensome requirements of the proposed revisions to the Nitrates Action Programme.

We expect to approach the Commission to initiate negotiations at the start of 2008.

Nitrates: EU Law

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the measures proposed in his Department's Nitrates Directive consultation go beyond the minimum requirements of the Nitrates Directive; and if he will make a statement. [165462]

Mr. Woolas: The measures proposed in the Nitrates Directive consultation represent what the Department considers the minimum necessary to fulfil our legal obligations under the Directive.

The proposals are based upon good agricultural practice and reflect what the Department considers to be the best way of achieving reductions in losses of nitrogen from agriculture (thereby achieving the environmental objectives of the Nitrates Directive) while maintaining a sustainable agricultural industry.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; who the chairman is of each; and to what salary, including bonuses and expenses, each chairman is entitled. [163616]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is published in individual non-departmental bodies annual reports and accounts. Also available on the DEFRA website (www.defra.gov.uk) is a full list of DEFRA's non-departmental bodies providing further information and links to published documents including annual reports.

Packaging: EU Law

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of British-produced packaging is *(a)* sold to British markets, *(b)* sold to EU countries which have implemented EC Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste 94/62/EC and *(c)* non-EU countries. [164467]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* The data requested are not collected by this Department.

Figures for 2006 show that 10.4 million tonnes of packaging entered the UK waste stream. 6.3 million tonnes of packaging waste was recovered and recycled, of which 2.2 million tonnes was exported. Export figures are not broken down by destination.

Pesticides: Drinking Water

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on removing *(a)* pesticides and *(b)* nitrates from drinking water supplies in each of the last five years. [165538]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the additional capital expenditure on new assets for the removal of pesticides and nitrates from drinking water, in each of the last five years, for all appointed water companies in England and Wales.

Capital expenditure in 2006-07 prices

	£ million	
	Nitrates	*Pesticides*
2002-03	14	6
2003-04	18	3
2004-05	5	1
2005-06	36	32
2006-07	57	36

Over the five years preceding 2006-07, companies reported additional capital expenditure of £78 million on reducing pesticides levels and £130 million on reducing nitrate levels in the public water supplies (in 2006-07 prices indexed using the Retail Prices Index).

In addition to new assets, companies also maintain and operate existing assets, in order to reduce pesticide and nitrate levels. This is included as part of their base expenditure. Ofwat does not collect this information separately.

Companies report to Ofwat each year in their June return on their expenditure in various categories.

Radioactive Waste: Waste Management

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many responses in *(a)* written submissions and *(b)* on-line answers to consultation questions his Department received in its consultation on managing radioactive waste safely before 2 November 2007; when he expects to post written submissions received on his departmental website; and when he expects to publish the Government's conclusions on the consultation. [163858]

Mr. Woolas: The Managing Radioactive Waste Safely consultation "A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal" closed on 2 November. There were options for written or email responses and my Department has currently received 166 responses in total, and of these, 97 were email and 69 written responses.

We are currently analysing all responses and are aiming to publish a summary within three months. Copies of responses will also be made publicly available. We expect the outcome to be the basis for a White Paper policy statement during the first half of 2008.

Regional Advisory Councils

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the European Commission about the composition of regional advisory councils; what his policy is on their composition; and if he will make a statement. [165515]

Jonathan Shaw: My predecessor and his officials had extensive contact with the Commission, before and during the establishment of the regional advisory councils.

The composition of the regional advisory councils is defined in Council Regulation 2004/585, which the UK supports. The rule is that the regional advisory councils are made up of representatives of the fishing sector (two thirds) and interested parties (one third) such as angling and environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

River Avon: Nitrates

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the trend in the nitrate content of the River Avon in Warwickshire over the last 10 years; and what estimate he has made of the likely trend in the next 10 years. [165041]

Mr. Woolas: Overall there are increases in nitrate concentration in the River Avon as the river flows downstream. This is not unusual in watercourses that receive treated sewage effluents and agricultural runoffs.

However, the temporal trend over the past 10 years shows a slight improvement in mean nitrate concentrations.

Due to the variability of data within and between years, it is difficult to provide an accurate forecast of future trends.

River Severn: Floods

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what reviews the Environment Agency is undertaking into flood and tidal risk management related to the River Severn. [166313]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency first published the Severn Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) in June 2005. The Severn CFMP was a pilot which formed part of the Environment Agency's research and development work to determine the best way to manage flood risk at a catchment scale.

The pilot is currently being upgraded to comply with revised national guidance, incorporating the impact of recent floods, improvements in river modelling technology and up to date information on climate change. The revised CFMP will go to full public consultation in April 2008. However, stakeholder meetings are currently taking place to inform the re-drafting. The report is scheduled to be approved by the end of September 2008 followed by publication in December 2008.

There is also a River Severn Strategy, a Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan and a draft Severn Tidal Tributaries CFMP in place.

River Thames: Flood Control

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the *(a)* need for and *(b)* practicability of an additional Thames barrier to the East of the existing one; and if he will make a statement. [165058]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column WA103.

Satellites

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on UK participation in international earth observation satellite programmes. [162668]

Mr. Woolas: I have not discussed the subject of international earth observation satellite programmes with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR).

The British National Space Centre has advised that BERR has no current, direct interest in this area.

Seas and Oceans: EC Action

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union, COM(2007) 575 final, when he expects the European Atlas of the Seas to be launched; and if he will make a statement. [163232]

Jonathan Shaw: The Maritime Policy envisages a European Atlas of the Seas as both a technical tool and a vehicle for publicising our important maritime heritage. We support these endeavours.

The associated Action Plan (SEC(2007)1278 provisional) envisages a first publication in 2009.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union, COM(2007) 575 final. [163247]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The Government welcome the considerable efforts of the European Commission in producing this communication and its supporting documents. We shall consider the details carefully. It is important that all the member states work with the Commission on the details of the new integrated maritime policy to ensure that it really adds value to the present arrangements.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union, COM(2007) 575 final, when he expects the European Union to adopt a directive on an Integrated Maritime Policy; and if he will make a statement. [163248]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The Commission Communication contains no specific proposal for a directive. The Government, together with other EU member states, would need to consider any such proposal in detail.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union, COM(2007) 575 final, whether he supports the proposal for a European Strategy for Marine Research; and if he will make a statement. [163250]

Jonathan Shaw: There are major challenges facing the marine environment, its resources and its biodiversity. Without a sound information-base we cannot robustly face these challenges. We therefore welcome a research strategy which will strengthen the marine science-base overall. EU Framework research programmes have supported a considerable body of science across Europe and beyond, and this adds to the evidence emerging from national programmes. However, marine science has been somewhat of a neglected area and an increased focus on marine research may give it an enhanced priority.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the maritime research work his Department is conducting with other *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* non-EU countries. [163251]

Jonathan Shaw: Maritime research is intrinsically international in character. Much of the Department's research activities are undertaken by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS).

Co-ordination of much applied marine resource, environment and ecosystem work is undertaken under the auspices of the inter-governmental International Council for Exploration of the Seas (ICES). The membership of ICES is of 20 countries around the North Atlantic, including several non-EU countries. International Working Groups meet on issues such as monitoring of fisheries, harmful algal blooms, marine contaminants and oceanography, as well as provide commissioned advice. In 2007, the UK and ICES jointly sponsored meetings on marine indicators and on changes in marine acidification. Working Groups also meet under the Oslo and Paris Commission (OSPAR).

The EU Framework programmes also enable a considerable body of collaborative work to be undertaken. Currently, CEFAS has 26 such projects, of which 12 are fisheries-related, seven concern marine environmental issues and seven relate to fish health and welfare. They involve all other member states except Luxembourg. The programmes also involve institutes from another 20 countries. Further countries are involved through other non-EU projects.

Sheep: Exports

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what movement restrictions were imposed upon Northern Irish lambs in relation to the summer 2007 foot and mouth outbreak. [163071]

Jonathan Shaw: There were no restrictions on the movements of lambs within Northern Ireland, or to the Republic of Ireland, as a result of the foot and mouth disease measures in GB.

Movements of lambs from Northern Ireland to GB were banned until 22 August, when imports of lambs from Northern Ireland for slaughter were allowed, provided that each consignment complied with the relevant import and movement restrictions in place.

Thames Water: Desalination

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much brine his Department estimates Thames Water's proposed desalinisation plan will produce on average each year when it is operating to full capacity; and what plans there are for dealing with this brine. [164197]

Mr. Woolas: Thames Water's proposed desalination plant is subject to Judicial Review. The Mayor of London submitted a legal challenge to the decision made jointly on 16 July 2007, by the Secretaries of State for Communities and Local Government, and Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, to grant planning permission to Thames Water. The case will be heard in the High Court.

Thames Water's proposed desalination plant would involve the desalination of brackish estuary water. The maximum achievable output of treated water is expected to be 150 million litres per day.

All the liquid waste streams from the desalination plant would be collected in a wastewater buffer tank and pumped to the nearby Beckton Sewage Treatment Works effluent channel, where they would be mixed with the Sewage Treatment Works effluent and then discharged back to the Thames Tideway.

Thames Water considers that the flow rate of brine from the reverse osmosis process would be up to 28.6 million litres per day. The annual volume of brine produced would be a function of the volume of water produced.

The rationale behind the disposal route back to the Tideway is that the majority of the matter within the waste stream originated from the river.

The Environment Agency would use its regulatory powers to make sure that any discharges are of an adequate quality for the river.

Veterinary Services: Finance

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much district veterinary managers have authorised each local authority to spend under the terms of the Animal Health and Welfare Framework Agreement in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement; [164336]

(2) how much his Department has contracted to pay to each local authority for animal health work under the terms of the Animal Health and Welfare Framework Agreement in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [164337]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA provides additional funding to local authorities to supplement the resources available to them under the Revenue Support Grant for work on animal health and welfare.

Local authorities submit bids annually to their local Divisional Veterinary Managers (DVMs), who are asked to certify that the proposed expenditure is eligible for funding. The bids are sent forward to a central point in DEFRA for authorisation.

This year, the total bids received, some of which arrived well into the new financial year, amounted to a total of £9.77 million. The funding available was £8.5

million. DEFRA has therefore issued allocations which fall short of the full amount requested. Authorities claiming up to £11,000 have been paid in full, while the remainder have been informed that their bids will be reduced by up to 12 per cent.

Water Supply: Licensing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to exempt contractors from having to apply for an abstraction licence to pump water; and why he discontinued the earlier exemption for contractors from having to apply for such an abstraction licence. [163755]

Mr. Woolas: There are no plans to exempt contractors from having to apply for an abstraction licence where they are pumping more than 20 cubic metres per day. Abstractions of less than 20 cubic metres per day are exempt from abstraction licensing.

The exemption from abstraction control, stated in the Water Resources Act 1991, of a number of activities which may have environmental impacts, such as long-term dewatering for quarrying and lack of provision for temporary abstraction licences, were addressed in the provisions of the Water Act 2003. These provisions will be commenced in 2008.

Abstractions to deal with emergencies to protect life, or property or the environment, such as removal of flood water, will remain exempt from licence control.

The Water Act 2003 makes provision for temporary abstraction licences and a faster process for obtaining such licences from the Environment Agency. Temporary abstraction licences are applicable to projects where water needs to be pumped for less than 28 days but may have potential environmental impacts.

Water: Essex

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much fresh water was pumped out to sea by the drainage authorities in *(a)* Norfolk, *(b)* Suffolk and *(c)* Essex in the last 12 months. [163687]

Mr. Woolas: We no longer collect annual figures for water pumped by internal drainage boards and do not hold figures for other organisations but the following table shows water pumped by Environment Agency-controlled pumps in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.

Pumping station site	*Cubic meters*	*Area*
Bridgewick Pumping Station	395,600	Dengie Fluvial
Croppenburgh Pumping Station	391,500	Canvey Island Fluvial
May Avenue Pumping Station	382,500	Canvey Island Fluvial
Leigh Beck Pumping Station	426,700	Canvey Island Fluvial
St. Annes Pumping Station	365,000	Canvey Island Fluvial
Hilton Pumping Station	523,000	Canvey Island Fluvial
Beckney Farm Pumping Station	257,800	Thameside Fluvial
Knightswick Pumping Station	385,000	Canvey Island Fluvial
Wat Tyler Pumping Station	315,800	Canvey Island Fluvial
Mell House Pumping Station	456,600	Dengie Fluvial
Worlds End Pumping Station	465,600	Thameside Fluvial
Marsh House Pumping Station	425,000	Dengie Fluvial
Bridgewick Pumping Station	452,500	Dengie Fluvial
Parkstone Pumping Station	552,500	Stour Fluvial
Pitsea Fleet Pumping Station	355,000	Canvey Island Fluvial
Dutch Village Pumping Station	578,900	Canvey Island Fluvial
Benacre Pumping Station	12,631,680	—
Hollesley Pumping Station	2,533,680	—
Reydon Pumping Station	789,400	—
Acle Pumping Station	1,782,720	—
Total cubic meters pumped	24,465,480	—

Note:
The above is an estimate of fluvial water pumped to sea.

Wines: Intervention Stocks

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the latest estimate is of the amount of wine purchased by the EU by intervention in 2007. [164094]

Jonathan Shaw: The European Commission's latest estimate of the volume of stored wine and grape must for 2007 is as follows:

2006-07 wine and must storage in hectolitres (hl)—all member states

	Volume
Total	15,414,991
Table wine	9,512,762
Grape musts	5,643,448
Grape must (concentrate)	258,781

As of September 2007, there were 2,240,850 h/l of wine alcohol in public intervention.

It is not possible to provide a meaningful figure of wine alcohol stocks for a comparable period, as these levels are subject to constant change. This is as a result of sales, the carry forward of unsold or uncollected stock and the addition of new stock.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aggregates

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the changes in demand for aggregates over the last five years; when she plans to issue new guidance to local authorities; and if she will make a statement. [163153]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government monitor on an annual basis the implementation and operation of the 2003 National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates

Provision in England 2001-16, a process which includes generating revised aggregates demand estimates biannually using up-to-date data. We are currently consulting key stakeholders on draft revised Guidelines for the period 2005-20: public consultation will follow early next year. If the draft revised Guidelines are adopted they will be issued towards the end of 2008.

Boundary Committee: Public Appointments

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what vacancies exist in the membership of the Boundary Committee; what vacancies have been filled in the last six months; by whom those vacancies have been filled; what the background is of those about to be appointed; and if she will make a statement. [162344]

Peter Viggers: I am replying as appointments to the Boundary Committee for England are made by the Electoral Commission.

The Committee's composition is prescribed by section 14 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. The Electoral Commission informs me that, reflecting the statutory requirements, the current membership consists of the Chairman, Max Caller CBE, an Electoral Commissioner, and Robin Gray, Joan Jones CBE, Ann Kelly, Dr. Peter Knight CBE and Professor Colin Mellors, all Deputy Electoral Commissioners. Robin Gray, Joan Jones CBE and Ann Kelly will retire as Deputy Electoral Commissioners during 2008.

Two appointments to the Committee have been made in the last six months: Max Caller was appointed in July 2007 to fill the vacancy in the Chair following the retirement from the Commission of Pamela Gordon on 30 June, and Peter Knight was appointed in October 2007. The Commission has also appointed Jane Earl and Professor Ron Johnston with effect from 1 April 2008.

The Commission has placed biographical details of each of the new appointees in the Library.

Buses: Fires

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information is collected by her Department and its agencies on the number of accidental road vehicle fires involving buses; and whether figures are held for road vehicle fires involving articulated buses. [165489]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government collate, analyse and publish information on fires attended by local fire and rescue services. With regard to fires in various forms of road transport, fires involving bus and coaches are coded and analysed as a single category. It is therefore not possible to provide separate figures for buses, nor for any sub-category of bus (e.g. articulated buses). Data can be provided for accidental and deliberate bus/coach fires, for each fire and rescue service in England.

In 2005, the most recent calendar year for which data are available, fire services attended 709 fires involving buses/coaches in England, of which 414 (58 per cent.) were accidental.

Council Housing: Property Transfer

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which authorities included overage provisions in stock transfer agreements with a registered social landlord. [164914]

Mr. Iain Wright: As my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning stated in her answer to my hon. Friend on 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1634W, the Department does not hold this information centrally and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department plans to move any of its offices to Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. [166567]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government has no plans currently to move any of its offices to Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency.

This answer does not include land or buildings occupied by Government offices, which carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

Departmental Flexible Working

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours (i) in her Department and (ii) the executive agencies for which the Department is responsible. [164333]

Mr. Dhanda: All Communities' staff below the senior civil service have the right to work flexi-time. However, there is no central recording of take-up. Flexi-time allows staff to arrange their start, finish and meal break times to suit themselves, providing they cover agreed core hours.

Currently 223 staff in Communities work part-time, including those on inward secondment, loan and maternity leave, out of a total 2,357 staff. While the Department captures information of on staff working less than full-time hours as above, arrangements where staff still work full-time via home working or compressed hours are dealt with by line management. Central monitoring of these working patterns is not expected to be introduced until the new year at the earliest.

In July the Department's HQ demonstrated its support for flexible working by revising its Flexible Working Policy, improving the application process for options such as part-time working, compressed hours or home working. Of the 19 staff who have applied for flexible working under the new process, 18 now work flexibly.

The Department does not collect data on flexible working from its agencies; they operate their own flexible working policies so it would not be comparable.

Departmental Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil servants in her Department *(a)* transferred to other Government Departments and *(b)* left the civil service in each of the last five years. [162721]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Wallasey (Angela Eagle) on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 203W.

Departmental Property

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on renovation and refurbishment of its properties in each of the last five years. [164379]

Mr. Dhanda: Expenditure on renovation and refurbishments by this Department is as follows:

Renovation and refurbishments

	Total cost (£)
2002-03	1,731,158
2003-04	3,700,583
2004-05	2,273,089
2005-06	7,391,845
2006-07	5,870,833

The figures provided are gross expenditure and do not reflect receipts from other building occupants.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has defined refurbishment projects to be upgrading and efficiency projects exceeding £100,000.

This answer does not include land and buildings occupied by Government Offices, who carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

Disabled Facilities Grant

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* registered social landlords, *(c)* voluntary sector organisations and *(d)* others responded to the consultation on her Department's proposals to improve the delivery of the disability facilities grant programme; [163268]

(2) how many respondents to the Department's Disability Facilities Grant programme consultation supported *(a)* the proposal to reclaim that grant when a property is sold and *(b)* a proposal to make changes to the means test. [163269]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department received 253 responses to the Disabled Facilities Grant programme consultation. The breakdown of responses is as follows:

	Responses
Local authorities	179
RSLs	14
Voluntary sector	15
Other	45
Total	253

171 responses commented on the proposal to reclaim grant when a property is sold and 152 were in favour.

253 responses commented on the proposals for changing means testing and 246 responses were in favour.

Disabled Facilities Grant: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each local authority spent on the Disabled Facilities Grant in 2006-07. [163639]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities in England report their annual Disabled Facilities Grant expenditure through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA). The 2006-07 HSSA report is not yet available. A table setting out the 2005-06 local authority expenditure has been deposited in the Library of the House. This includes the Department's contribution of £111 million funding, made available through individual allocations to local authorities.

Disabled Facilities Grants: Public Participation

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library the responses to the consultation on the Disabled Facilities Grant Programme. [166310]

Mr. Iain Wright: The responses to the consultation on the Disabled Facilities Grant Programme have now been placed in the Library of the House.

EU Grants and Loans: Audit

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to ensure that future funding from the European Commission which it administers is audited correctly. [162253]

John Healey: The Department has been working closely with the European Commission to ensure robust systems are in place for delivering ERDF. As a result of strengthened management and control arrangements the Commission has lifted its suspension on the north east, Yorkshire and the Humber, north west objective 1, West Midlands and Peterborough for the current programmes. The new ERDF programmes will be managed by the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), which are well established non-departmental public bodies that have sound control environments systems that are scrutinised by the NAO.

EU Grants and Loans: North West Region

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what action her Department has taken in response to the European Commission's announcement that it will freeze funding to the north west region and that fines may be issued following an investigation into the monitoring of grants; and if she will make a statement. [162252]

John Healey: The Department and the Government office for the north west have been working closely with the European Commission to deal with their remaining issues. We are using independent auditors to examine

and test the systems responsible for monitoring ERDF projects. Where deficiencies are found we are taking urgent corrective action to ensure they are robust and provide the fullest assurance to the Commission. We intend to demonstrate to the Commission that no financial correction is necessary.

Housing and Regeneration Bill

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Housing and Regeneration Bill will be published. [164962]

Yvette Cooper: The Housing and Regeneration Bill was published on 16 November 2007.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of enabling all local authorities to achieve the Decent Homes standard. [164839]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning on 22 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1521W, which provided information on the cost of delivering decent homes for council housing.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on which date each local authority is expected to meet the Decent Homes standard. [164841]

Mr. Iain Wright: A table indicating when each stock owning local authority reported that they have met, or reports that they expect to meet the decent homes standard has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Local Authorities: Expenditure

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the total annual expenditure of each English local authority the cost of administrative overheads was in the last year for which figures are available. [162020]

John Healey: The information requested is not held by central Government and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Local Authorities: Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities received financial support for *(a)* arm's length management organisations and *(b)* private finance initiatives in the latest year for which figures are available; how much was provided to each local authority; and how many homes were affected in each local authority. [164917]

Mr. Iain Wright: Those local authorities receiving financial support for arm's length management organisations (ALMOs), the value of supported borrowing that that support is based on for 2006-07 and the number of dwellings involved are included in the following table:

Authority	*Supported borrowing*	*Units affected*
Kirklees	9,448,726	28,269
Barnsley	27,379,717	23,648
Blyth Valley	16,929,000	7,756
Bolton	39,761,000	21,500
Carrick	5,302,997	3,872
Cheltenham	8,940,000	5,027
Colchester	11,105,000	7,060
Hillingdon	15,741,000	13,904
Kensington and Chelsea	9,795,000	7,220
Leeds	103,077,426	69,888
Oldham	25,200,000	18,550
Waltham Forest	5,000,000	11,190
Barnet	15,752,520	11,452
Gateshead	42,140,000	24,663
High Peak	4,606,000	4,389
Islington	25,862,200	30,231
Newcastle	54,586,000	32,092
Poole	9,733,518	4,726
Sheffield	91,039,480	11,074
Solihull	17,885,000	11,541
South Lakeland	6,600,000	3,421
Warrington	5,958,400	9,935
Bury	6,520,000	8,936
Ealing	43,100,000	14,679
Hammersmith and Fulham	23,002,000	13,778
Manchester	17,570,000	17,342
Newark and Sherwood	9,000,000	5,334
Rotherham	45,000,000	25,128
Sandwell	53,800,000	35,079
Newham	12,000,000	17,814
Stockport	19,980,000	11,806

It is not possible to give the actual level of housing revenue account (HRA) subsidy paid to authorities to support their ALMO borrowing as the ALMO supported borrowing forms a part of their overall HRA supported borrowing.

Support for local authority PFI schemes in 2006-07 and the number of dwellings affected is shown as follows:

Authority	*2006-07 (£)*	*Reduction in number of non-decent units*[1]
Housing revenue account payments		
LB Camden (Chalcots)	6,132,595	601
LB Islington (Street Properties 1)	6,140,376	1,900
LB Islington (Street Properties 2)	9,067,058	2,954
Leeds City Council (Swarcliffe)	6,096,988	1,933
Manchester CC (Plymouth Grove)	3,012,098	1,091
Manchester CC (Domestic Energy Services)	301,853	n/a
Manchester CC (Miles Platting)	200,630	1,770
LB Newham (Canning Town)	2,391,331	1,029
Oldham MBC (Sheltered)	4,949,744	1,639

Authority	2006-07 (£)	Reduction in number of non-decent units[1]
Reading BC (North Whitley)	3,997,107	1,370
Sandwell MBC (Hawthorns Fields)	5,713,405	1,041

Authority	2006-07 (£)	Number of additional social rented units[2]
General fund payments		
Derby CC	236,000	150
LB Hammersmith and Fulham	378,756	32
North East Derbyshire DC	33,000	51
Selby DC	539,929	250
Wagringsh Phase 1 (Anson and Blenheim)	214,673	105

[1] Total includes units that are refurbished, units that are demolished and replaced with new council stock and units that are demolished without replacement

[2] Units are owned by RSLs with councils having nomination rights

The PFI subsidy payments are a contribution to the annual payments that the local authority has to make to the PFI contractor under the terms of the PFI contract.

Planning: Electric Cables

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been issued to local authorities to ensure that planning applications for developments underneath overhead power cables are assessed to ensure that such developments are within safe limits of exposure to electrical and magnetic fields. [162331]

Mr. Iain Wright: No planning guidance on this subject has been issued to local authorities. At present, there are no planning restrictions on development close to power lines other than the need to observe safe clearance distances.

Railway Stations: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the degree of compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 of railway stations in Hampshire; what steps are being taken to ensure full compliance; and if she will make a statement. [165860]

Mr. Tom Harris: I have been asked to reply.

Under Part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 station operators are required to take reasonable steps to ensure that disabled people do not find it impossible or unreasonably difficult to access their services. This may be done by altering physical features at stations, taking steps to avoid them or by providing the service by other means. Operators are responding to these duties and over half of rail journeys now originate from step-free stations.

In addition, we recognise station access as being a key issue and in 2005 launched the £370 million Railways for All programme to provide step free access to selected stations. So far 92 stations have been announced for inclusion in the programme including in Hampshire Fareham, Farnborough, Brockenhurst, Fleet, Havant, Fratton and Southampton Airport Parkway.

Religious Buildings

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will compile a register of mosques in the UK. [165450]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government do not hold definitive lists for any places of worship in the UK. The Government are working with a range of partners to further develop their understanding of the UK's Muslim community and its infrastructure.

Social Rented Housing: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social rented homes will be built in Leeds West constituency in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [166278]

Mr. Iain Wright: We announced in the Housing Green Paper an increase of new affordable housing to at least 70,000 per annum by 2010-11; of these, 45,000 homes will be for social rent, with a goal to go further in subsequent years to 50,000 new homes for social rent in the next spending review period.

Regional Assemblies are currently providing advice to Ministers on their priorities for investment in 2008 to 2011 and completions in particular locations and constituencies will depend on the bids received by the Housing Corporation.

South Downs National Park

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her timetable is for *(a)* receiving and *(b)* making a decision on the recommendations of the report on the South Downs National Park consultations. [165861]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

On 25 October, I announced that the South Downs public inquiry to consider certain new issues relating to the proposed South Downs National Park (Designation) Order 2002 (as varied by the South Downs National Park Designation (Variation) Order 2004) will be re-opened on 12 February 2008. We anticipate a decision about the National Park will be taken in the latter part of 2008.

Terrorism

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-86 on national security, if she will list the projects devoted to countering violent extremism to which her Department is allocating the £20 million; how much funding is being provided to each project; and where each project is based. [165838]

Mr. Dhanda: In his statement of 14 November my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister confirmed that £70 million is being invested in community projects

that are dedicated to countering violent extremism over the next three years (financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11).

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced on 31 October that around £25 million of that would be invested in national scheme to directly support communities, including:

Equipping faith leaders with the skills and understanding required to lead communities, building their capacity to engage with young people on the challenges they face, including extremism. For example, ensuring imams can communicate more effectively with young people;

Support communities to broaden the provision of citizenship education in mosque schools, equipping young people themselves with the understanding and arguments to reject extremists' messages;

Developing new minimum standards for public institutions (e.g. prisons, universities) engaging imams working with young or vulnerable people;

Supporting the Charity Commission's work to improve governance standards in faith institutions, including mosques;

Increase the provision of leadership training available to Muslim communities, particularly women and young people.

Further announcements will be made as and when the details of the grant funding are decided.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State also announced £45 million would be available to local authorities and their community partners. This will build on work funded by the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund in 2007-08, guidance on which can be found at www.communities.gov.uk/communities/preventingextremism. Further guidance will be issued is due course.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoption

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what action the Government have taken to encourage more families to consider adopting children since 1997. [162971]

Kevin Brennan: Since 1997 the steps we have taken to encourage more people to consider adopting children from care, include:

extending eligibility criteria for people who may apply to adopt to include single people, married couples, civil partners and unmarried couples (same sex and opposite sex);

introducing rights to statutory adoption and paternity leave and pay, parental leave, flexible working and time off for dependants;

requiring local authorities to make a range of adoption support services available in their area, including financial support;

investing £66.5 million in transforming the management and delivery of adoption services, through the Quality Protects Grant;

issuing National Adoption Standards setting out what children, prospective adopters, birth families and the general public can expect from their local adoption service;

issuing an Adopter Recruitment Toolkit to help adoption agencies develop their local media activities for recruiting prospective adopters;

providing funding to the British Association for Adoption and Fostering to support National Adoption Week which helps raise awareness about adoption, the number of children in care waiting for families and encourages more prospective adopters to come forward; and

making information available through leaflets and Government websites about adoption and the adoption process.

Adoption: Minorities

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to support the work of organisations attempting to increase the number of black and ethnic minority adopters; and if he will make a statement. [164417]

Kevin Brennan: We are currently providing funding to the British Association for Adoption and Fostering to support National Adoption Week, which helps raise awareness about adoption and encourages people from all backgrounds to come forward to adopt. This year's National Adoption Week had a particular focus on encouraging people from minority ethnic backgrounds to come forward to adopt.

Over the past 10 years this Government have provided financial support to a number of voluntary adoption agencies in England to help them recruit more black and minority ethnic adopters.

Aviation

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* business class and *(b)* first class flights in the last 12 months. [163096]

Kevin Brennan: The spend on *(a)* business class flights in the 12 month period October 2006 to September 2007 for the former Department for Education and Skills was £241,936 and *(b)* first class flights in the 12 month period October 2006 to September 2007 for the former Department for Education and Skills was £24,658.

Centre for Procurement Performance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the costs were of his Department's Centre for Procurement Performance in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [164232]

Kevin Brennan: The Centre for Procurement Performance (CPP) was launched in April 2005 to raise procurement performance, and work with organisations across the whole of the education, skills and children and families' system to release significant efficiency gains back into frontline services by March 2008.

To date, the work of the CPP has realised combined reported efficiency savings of £286.5 million for the financial years 2005/06 and 2006/07 across the Schools, HE and CYPF sectors. A further estimated £41.3 million in efficiencies are expected from the further education sector for financial year 2006/07. Combined estimated efficiencies for the financial year 2007/08 are £404.3 million.

The costs of CPP in each year since its inception are as follows:

£000

Financial year	Programme spend	Admin spend	Overall year spend
2004-05	1,401	0	1,411
2005-06	2,287	-219	2,068
2006-07	4,493	0	4,494
2007-08[1]	2,354	646	3,000
Overall spend	10,535	427	10,973

[1] To date (31 November 2007).

Children in Care

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* mechanisms and *(b)* guidance exist on the provision to parents with substance abuse histories of access to their children whilst in care; and if he will make a statement. [164706]

Kevin Brennan: Section 34 of the Children Act 1989 and accompanying regulations and guidance require local authorities to allow reasonable contact between a looked after child and their parents, and describe the circumstances under which such contact may be denied temporarily in an emergency in order to safeguard the child.

The Act also requires the court to consider the proposed contact arrangements for a child in care proceedings and courts may make directions about the nature or amount of contact which should be allowed.

Neither the regulations nor the guidance make reference to any particular needs or circumstances of birth parents in relation to contact, since local authorities and the courts should take decisions based on what is best for the child in each individual case.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make a statement on the decision-making process used to determine whether to take *(a)* a baby, *(b)* children or *(c)* young people into care. [164708]

Kevin Brennan: There are extensive requirements governing decision-making processes for bringing a child into care, which is ultimately a decision for the courts. The processes are the same for all children and are set out in the Court Orders volume of the Children Act 1989 guidance. Local authorities must undertake a thorough assessment of the parents' capacity to meet the child's developmental needs in the context of the wider family and environmental factors. The plan which follows the assessment must then be submitted to the court and will be subject to judicial scrutiny as part of the consideration as to whether the harm thresholds set out in legislation have been met.

The Department has recently consulted on a revised version of the Court orders guidance which will shortly be reissued. Both the revised guidance and the policy direction of the "Care Matters" Green and White papers emphasise the need to engage families, including wider family, at the earliest stages of decision-making and ensure that they are fully informed about local authority concerns.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* support and *(b)* guidance is made available to local authorities for keeping families together before taking (i) babies, (ii) children and (iii) young people into care; and if he will make a statement. [164709]

Kevin Brennan: The Children Act 1989 places a duty on local authorities to promote the upbringing of all children in need in their area within their families and they have a power to provide a range of services to families including, in exceptional circumstances, financial support to discharge this duty. This duty is regardless of the age of the child. The legislation is accompanied by extensive guidance which sets out how the legislation is to be delivered in practice. In addition, "Every Child Matters", launched in 2003, set a challenging agenda for central and local government and partner agencies to strengthen prevention services through an increased focus on better, earlier and co-ordinated support to families and carers.

The "Care Matters" White Paper launched in June this year set out a number of actions, including funding for piloting new interventions, which will enable more children to remain with their birth and extended families.

Children in Care: Reading

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what programmes are in place to provide looked-after-children with access to one-to-one reading tuition; [163206]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that looked-after-children do not fall behind other pupils with their reading skills. [163207]

Kevin Brennan: The attainment of looked after children has improved. However, outcomes for this group of children and young people are not good enough. In June 2007 we published our White Paper "Care Matters: Time for Change", which set out the range of ways in which we will improve the education of looked after children. These include: putting the designated teacher on a statutory footing to improve the expertise in school and ensure a stronger focus on their learning needs; introducing a £500 annual allowance for looked after children at risk of falling behind at school; appointing 'virtual school heads' to oversee their education; reducing mobility of school placements, particularly in the crucial years before GCSEs; and a bursary of a minimum of £2,000 for all care leavers who go on to university.

We are personalising the learning of looked after children to ensure that they receive greater support where they are falling behind. This includes providing greater access to one to one tuition. For example:

The £500 allowance for looked after children at risk of falling behind at school will be used to support a wide range of additional learning activities that meet the needs of the child, including one to one tuition;

We are currently piloting better approaches to personalised learning, including one to one tuition, through our "Making Good Progress" pilot. The pilot is providing up to a total of 20 hours of one to one tuition in English and maths for 43,000 pupils, focused on pupils who are behind national expectations, are falling behind, or looked after children who would particularly benefit from individual support; and

HSBC have provided £1 million to fund one to one tuition for looked after children. This provision will be managed by new 'virtual school heads' who will oversee the education of looked after children in a local area.

From next year we will roll out the "Every Child a Reader" programme nationally, building on the highly successful pilot led by the KPMG Foundation, so that by 2011 30,000 six-year-olds who have difficulty reading will be getting one-to-one tuition. We will also provide support for writing in primary schools through the "Every Child a Writer" programme, helping teachers to ensure that they use the best teaching methods, including one-to-one coaching, in the areas of writing which primary children find hardest to master.

By 2011 we will extend one to one support to 300,000 children in English (and a further 300,000 in maths). This will ensure that many more children receive the support they need to reach their potential. The more intensive support offered through "Every Child a Reader" is in addition to this. Both will be of great benefit to looked after children.

Children: Databases

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to publish in final form guidance on the ContactPoint database; and if he will make a statement. [164824]

Kevin Brennan: We plan to publish the response to the consultation on the draft ContactPoint guidance, which includes details of our publication plans for the guidance, by the end of November.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date he plans to publish the Government's Strategy Paper on Pay and Rewards for the Early Years and Childcare Sector; and if he will make a statement. [163328]

Kevin Brennan: We plan to publish a Children's Workforce Strategy Action Plan early in the new year. The Plan will set out our overall vision for the workforce and the steps that we and other stakeholders need to take to deliver this vision. The Plan will cover recruitment, retention and rewards across the whole of the children's workforce rather than for sectors individually.

Children: Palliative Care

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the guidance for the disabled children's indicator of Public Service Agreement 12 will cover children's palliative care services. [163725]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* The indicator is currently being developed and will measure parents' experience of services and of the elements of the core offer set out in the Aiming High for Disabled Children report (May 2007). The measure will cover the families of all children with disabilities and ask about all services provided to them by their local authority and primary care trust (PCT), including children's trusts.

Therefore palliative care services provided through these organisations will be covered by the indicator. However, the measurement of the indicator will not allow for the disaggregation of individual services.

We will not be issuing guidance over and above what is in the public service agreement 12 delivery agreement.

Departmental Assets

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value is of each such asset; and what the expected revenue is from each such sale. [163384]

Kevin Brennan: The Department will be publishing an asset management strategy in December 2007 which will provide details of our planned disposals up to 2010-11.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; and what the expected revenue from each such sale is. [164515]

Kevin Brennan: The Department will be publishing an asset management strategy in December 2007 which will provide details of our planned disposals up to 2010-11.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what target his Department has adopted on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [163198]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office publishes guidance for Departments on "Handling Correspondence from Members of Parliament, Members of the House of Lords, MEPs and Members of Devolved Assemblies". Copies are available in the Libraries of the House and it is also available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/correspondence.pdf.

The Cabinet Office also publishes on an annual basis, a report on Departments' and Agencies performance on handling Members and Peers correspondence. This includes the target set by each Department to reply to hon. Members, the number of letters received and the percentage of replies within target. The last report for 2006 was published by the then Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong) on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS.

Departmental Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to his Department by departmental staff since 6 June 2006. [162481]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has not received any reports of allegations of victimisation for whistlblowing since 6 June 2006.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised Civil Service Code. [162482]

Kevin Brennan: Following the publication of the revised Civil Service Code my Department undertook an immediate review of whistleblowing procedures.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many civil servants in his Department and its predecessor *(a)* transferred to other Government departments and *(b)* left the civil service in each of the last five years. [162722]

Kevin Brennan: Detailed information on numbers of leavers and those who transferred to other Government Departments could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However the numbers of civil servants (full-time equivalents) in my Department for each of the last five years is provided in the table:

Year[1]	*FTE staff numbers*
2003[2]	5,020
2004	5,130
2005	4,550
2006	4,166
2007[3]	2,780

[1] The numbers recorded are from April each year.
[2] Figures for 2003-06 refer to the predecessor Department for Education and Skills.
[3] Figures for 2007 refer to the Department for Children, Schools and Families, correct at 31 October 2007. They reflect Machinery of Government Changes in June 2007 (see background note).

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the full-time equivalent headcount in his Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for his Department is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [163985]

Kevin Brennan: The full-time equivalent headcount of staff in my Department is 2,780 staff with a target headcount of 3,142 full-time equivalents for the end of 2007-08. The target was set when our overall headcount was set for the former Department for Education and Skills, before 536 staff were transferred to the new Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007.

The Department has not yet finalised workforce forward projections for 2008-09 and 2009-10. However, my Department will operate within a strict (and reducing year on year) running cost allocation. This is likely to impact on the overall headcount and so it is very unlikely this will lead to an increase in the numbers of people employed by the Department.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department and its predecessor on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [163196]

Kevin Brennan: Details of expenditure on official hospitality incurred by the Department over the last 12 months are set out as follows:

October 2006 to October 2007—£7,340

The figure includes expenditure incurred by Ministers and senior departmental officials. The figure excludes costs incurred as part of official events or formal meetings held to further departmental business.

The basic rules governing hospitality are set by HM Treasury. Hospitality expenditure is limited to occasions when official business can best be transacted in that way. Personal entertainment is usually restricted to where senior managers (deputy director or above) are acting as a host and expenditure must be approved in advance by a director or executive board member.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007 as a result of a machinery of government change and the expenditure recorded includes that of its predecessor Department, the Department for Education and Skills. The expenditure will also include any costs incurred by the newly created Department for Universities, Innovation and Skills, where these costs relate to areas formerly the responsibility of the Department for Education and Skills.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what dates his Department breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near-cash, *(c)* administration and *(d)* capital budgets; what the value of each breach was; and what the reason was for each breach. [163382]

Kevin Brennan: The budgets for the Department of Children, Schools and Families will be set, subject to parliamentary approval, in the Winter Supplementary Estimate to be laid before Parliament on 15 November 2007.

In terms of the predecessor Department for Educations and Skills there have been no breaches of the main departmental budgets in the last five years. There have been breaches of the resource AME budgets for the Teachers Pensions Scheme in 2001-02 (£15.2 million); 2003-04 (£106.8 million) and 2006-07 (£81.6 million) due to the difficulty in predicting, in the Spring Supplementary, the actuarial valuation of the scheme. This valuation is received after the end of the financial year.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessor spent on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio, *(c)* print media and *(d)* other matters. [163197]

Kevin Brennan: Promotional campaigns, including those using advertising, are funded from the Department's central advertising and publicity budget and from individual programme budgets held by policy directorates.

Spend from the advertising and publicity budget since 1997 is set out in the table. In addition to funding promotional campaigns, this budget also covers a wide range of other publicity activity (including magazine production and infrastructure costs such as mailing and storage of departmental publications). It is not possible to separately identify the campaign activity, except at disproportionate cost.

	£000
1997-98	10,879
1998-99	13,426
2000-01	14,595
2001-02	11,688
2002-03	14,091
2003-04	16,943
2004-05	12,489
2005-06	9,391
2006-07	10,686
2007-08	[1]5,713

[1] To 31 October 2007

The spend on promotional campaigns from individual policy directorate programmes cannot be separately identified, except at disproportionate cost. However, it is possible to separate the Department's spend on advertising, as this is centrally placed through the Central Office of Information. However, these figures will include advertising spend from within the advertising and publicity budget totals given in the table.

The Department's advertising spend since 1997 is set out in the table, with a breakdown of individual campaign totals (where known) since 2000-1 and a breakdown of media spend against individual campaigns since 2004-5. It is not possible, without disproportionate cost, to provide earlier breakdown of costs or further details of campaign costs.

	£000	Campaign	£000
1997-98	9,992	—	—
1998-99	15,673	—	—
1999-00	11,900	—	—
2000-01	29,110	Don't Quit Now	2,700
	—	New Deal 50 plus	2,400
	—	ICT employability	2,011
	—	Childcare recruitment	1,821
	—	Promotion of parents' magazine	1,484
	—	Disability discrimination	1,242
	—	Fast track teaching	1,056
	—	Modern Apprenticeships	856
	—	Individual Learning Accounts	612
2001-02	17,665	Adult basic skills	5,096
	—	Childcare recruitment	2,504
	—	Science Year	1,803
	—	Excellence Challenge	1,750
	—	Modern Apprenticeships	1,670
	—	Foundation Degrees	1,325
	—	Fast track teaching	1,250
	—	Millennium Volunteers	848
	—	Promotion of parents' magazine	770
	—	New Deal 25 plus	633
2002-03	13,790	Adult basic skills	5,478
	—	Childcare recruitment	2,741
	—	Aim higher	2,650
	—	Connexions	1,320
	—	Student finance	655
	—	Foundation Degrees	549
2003-04	20,170	Adult basic skills	6,673
	—	Aim higher	4,190
	—	Connexions	2,608
	—	Childcare recruitment	2,987
	—	Foundation Degrees	2,814

	£000				
	Television	Radio	Print	Other	Total
2004-05					11,088
Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)	1,241	768	1,544	—	3,553
Sure Start Month	—	—	127	—	127
Adult basic skills	2,941	726	580	—	4,247
Teenage pregnancy	—	961	19	—	980
Student finance	—	684	183	—	867
Fast track teaching	—	—	69	—	69
Foundation Degrees	—	483	—	—	483
Childcare recruitment	—	—	281	—	281
Promotion of Need 2 Know website	—	275	—	—	275
Promotion of Parents' Centre website	—	—	172	—	172

	£000				
	Television	*Radio*	*Print*	*Other*	*Total*
DFES classified / recruitment					
2005-06					7,939
EMA	786	305	171	—	1,261
Teenage pregnancy	400	538	143	—	1,081
Childcare recruitment	—	302	289	—	591
Adult basic skills	1,238	207	126	—	1,570
Student finance	1,400	460	196	—	2,057
Need 2 Know	—	54	—	—	54
Parent's Centre	—	—	143	—	143
Foundation Degrees	—	221	413	—	634
Fast track teaching	—	—	18	—	18
DirectGov parenting franchise	—	147	293	—	440
DirectGov education and learning franchise	—	—	85	—	85
Sure Start	—	—	3	—	3
Every child matters	—	—	2	—	2
2006-07					6,265
Adult basic skills	1,491	244	—	70	1,805
Student finance	1,753	626	97		2,476
Teenage pregnancy	558	653	59	264	1,534
Childcare recruitment	—	—	166	239	405
Children and young people's workforce	—	—	—	45	45
2007-08					[1]2,589
Diplomas	—	940	250	—	1,190
Teenage pregnancy	361	315	40	268	984
Childcare	—	—	86	—	86
Cyberbullying	—	—	—	88	88
Connexions	—	—	—	241	241

[1] This is the commitment to 14.11.07. Additionally, £1.861 million has been spent on the student finance campaign which is now led by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessor spent on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and how much was spent on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio, *(c)* print media and *(d)* other costs in each campaign; and if he will make a statement. [164170]

Kevin Brennan: Promotional campaigns, including those using advertising, are funded from the Department's central Advertising and Publicity Budget and from individual programme budgets held by policy directorates.

Spend from the Advertising and Publicity Budget since 1997 is set out as follows . In addition to funding promotional campaigns, this budget also covers a wide range of other publicity activity (including magazine production and infrastructure costs such as mailing and storage of departmental publications). It is not possible to separately identify the campaign activity, except at disproportionate cost.

	£000
1997-98	10,879
1998-99	13,426
2000-01	14,595
2001-02	11,688
2002-03	14,091
2003-04	16,943
2004-05	12,489
2005-06	9,391
2006-07	10,686
2007-08 (to 31 October 2007)	5,713

The spend on promotional campaigns from individual policy directorate programmes cannot be separately identified, except at disproportionate cost. However, it is possible to separate the Department's spend on advertising, as this is centrally placed through the Central Office of Information. However, these figures will include advertising spend from within the Advertising and Publicity Budget totals given in the table.

The Department's advertising spend since 1997 is set out as follows, with a breakdown of individual campaign totals (where known) since 2000-01 and a breakdown of media spend against individual campaigns since 2004-05. It is not possible, without disproportionate cost, to provide earlier breakdown of costs or further details of campaign costs.

	£000	*Campaign*	*£000*
1997-98	9,992		
1998-99	15,673		
1999-2000	11,900		
2000-01	29,110	Don't Quit Now	2,700
		New Deal 50 plus	2,400
		ICT employability	2,011
		Childcare recruitment	1,821
		Promotion of parents' magazine	1,484
		Disability discrimination	1,242
		Fast track teaching	1,056
		Modern Apprenticeships	856
		Individual Learning Accounts	612
2001-02	17,665	Adult basic skills	5,096
		Childcare recruitment	2,504
		Science Year	1,803
		Excellence Challenge	1,750
		Modern Apprenticeships	1,670

	£000	Campaign	£000
		Foundation Degrees	1,325
		Fast track teaching	1,250
		Millennium Volunteers	848
		Promotion of parents' magazine	770
		New Deal 25 plus	633
2002-03	13,790	Adult basic skills	5,478
		Childcare recruitment	2,741
		Aim higher	2,650
		Connexions	1,320
		Student finance	655
		Foundation Degrees	549
2003-04	20,170	Adult basic skills	6,673
		Aim higher	4,190
		Connexions	2,608
		Childcare recruitment	2,987
		Foundation Degrees	2,814

	Television	Radio	Print	Total
2004-05				11,088
Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)	1,241	768	1,544	3,553
Sure Start Month	—	—	127	127
Adult basic skills	2,941	726	580	4,247
Teenage pregnancy	—	961	19	980
Student finance	—	684	183	867
Fast track teaching	—	—	69	69
Foundation Degrees	—	483	—	483
Childcare recruitment	—	—	281	281
Promotion of Need 2 Know website	—	275	—	275
Promotion of Parents' Centre website	—	—	172	172
DfES classified/recruitment	—	—	31	31
2005-06				7,939
EMA	786	305	171	1,261
Teenage pregnancy	400	538	143	1,081
Childcare recruitment	—	302	289	591
Adult basic skills	1,238	207	126	1,570
Student finance	1,400	460	196	2,057
Need 2 Know	—	54	—	54
Parent's Centre	—	—	143	143
Foundation Degrees	—	221	413	634
Fast track teaching	—	—	18	18
DirectGov parenting franchise	—	147	293	440
DirectGov education and learning franchise	—	—	85	85
Sure Start	—	—	3	3
Every child matters	—	—	2	2
2006-07				6,265
Adult basic skills	1,491	244	—	1,805
Student finance	1,753	626	97	2,476
Teenage pregnancy	558	653	59	1,534
Childcare recruitment	—	—	166	405
Children and young people's workforce	—	—	—	45
2007-08				[1]2,589
Diplomas	—	940	250	1,190
Teenage pregnancy	361	315	40	984
Childcare	—	—	86	86
Cyberbullying	—	—	—	88
Connexions	—	—	—	241

[1] This is the commitment to 14 November 2007. Additionally, £1.861 million has been spent on the student finance campaign which is now led by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* date, *(b)* cost and *(c)* purpose of each advertising campaign commissioned by his Department and its predecessors was in each of the last two years. [164503]

Kevin Brennan: Advertising campaigns commissioned by the Department in 2006-07 (Department for Education and Skills) and 2007-08 (Department for Children Schools and Families) are in the following table.

2006-07

Advertising campaign	Purpose	Cost (£000)
Student finance	To inform young people and their parents about the financial help available to those taking higher education courses.	2,476
Adult basic skills	To motivate adults with basic skills gaps to fill these through taking courses.	1,805
Teenage pregnancy	To help reduce rates of teenage pregnancy by targeting young people with messages about safe sex and relationships.	1,534
Childcare recruitment	To inform people (including those from under-represented groups) of the job opportunities available in the childcare and early years sector.	405
Children and young people's workforce	To inform those working with children and young people of new responsibilities resulting from the Every Child Matters reform programme.	45

2007-08

Advertising campaign Cost	Purpose	Cost
Diplomas	To inform young people and their parents about the new qualification being introduced in autumn 2008 so they can make an informed choice about its suitability.	1,190
Teenage pregnancy	To help reduce the rates of teenage pregnancy by targeting young people with messages about safe sex and relationships.	984
Childcare	To inform parents of the childcare opportunities available to them and the potential advantages these might bring so more parents consider this option.	86

2007-08

Advertising campaign Cost	Purpose	Cost
Cyberbullying	To reduce the rate of cyberbullying by challenging young people who are complicit in bullying (for example, by passing on text messages) to recognise the harmful and negative impact on others.	88
Connexions	To make young people aware of the Connexions Direct Service	241

Additionally in 2007-08, 1.861 has been spent on student finance advertising, a campaign which has now moved across to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

As advertising campaigns often run in phases, with different media used over different periods in each phase, it would only be possible to give specific dates for each campaign (beyond the financial year in which they fell) at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and his predecessors spent on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997. [164505]

Kevin Brennan: Promotional campaigns, including those using advertising, are funded from the Department's central advertising and publicity budget and from individual programme budgets held by policy directorates.

Spend from the advertising and publicity budget since 1997 is set out in the following table. In addition to funding promotional campaigns, this budget also covers a wide range of other publicity activity (including magazine production and infrastructure costs such as mailing and storage of departmental publications). It is not possible to separately identify the campaign activity, except at disproportionate costs.

	Amount £000
1997-98	10,879
1998-99	13,426
1999-2000	9,902
2000-01	14,595
2001-02	11,688
2002-03	14,091
2003-04	16,943
2004-05	12,489
2005-06	9,391
2006-07	10,686
2007-08	[1]5,713

[1] To 31 October 2007.

The spend on promotional campaigns from individual policy directorate programmes cannot be separately identified, except at disproportionate cost. However, it is possible to separate all the Department's spend on advertising, as this is centrally placed through the Central Office of Information. However, these figures will include advertising spend from within the advertising and publicity budget totals as set out in the following table.

The Department's advertising spend since 1997 is:

	Amount £000
1997-98	9,992
1998-99	15,673
1999-2000	11,900
2000-01	29,110
2001-02	17,665
2002-03	13,790
2003-04	20,170
2004-05	11,088
2005-06	7,939
2006-07	6,265
2007-08	[1]2,589

[1] This is the commitment to 4 November 2007. Additionally, £1.861 million has been spent on advertising which is now led by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Departmental Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of questions tabled for answer on a named day to his Department received a substantive answer on the day due in the last year for which figures are available. [162613]

Kevin Brennan: The Department's PQ tracking system is currently unable to break down the data requested and to do so would incur disproportionate cost. This Department aims to ensure that Members receive a substantive response to their named day question on the named day, and endeavours to answer ordinary written questions within a working week of being tabled. Unfortunately, this is not always possible but this Department makes every effort to achieve these timescales.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of questions tabled to his Department for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named since the establishment of his Department. [163191]

Kevin Brennan: The Department's PQ Tracking System is currently unable to break down the data requested and to do so would incur disproportionate cost. This Department aims to ensure that Members receive a substantive response to their named day question on the named day, and endeavours to answer ordinary written questions within a working week of being tabled. Unfortunately, this is not always possible but this Department makes every effort to achieve these timescales.

Railways

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department on first class train tickets in the last 12 months. [163097]

Kevin Brennan: The spend on first class rail tickets in the 12 month period October 2006 to September 2007 for the former Department for Education and Skills was £4,026,649.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in each local education authority area applied for expansion in each year since 1996-97; how many requests were granted in each year; and if he will make a statement. [163441]

Jim Knight: Schools may expand for a number of reasons; for example, to meet population growth, to accommodate pupils from other local schools which have closed, or to meet parental demand for additional places.

The following tables sets out the number of statutory proposals to expand that were published and approved in each local authority from September 1999 to 9 November 2007. Information prior to the introduction of the local decision making regime in September 1999 is not sufficiently reliable. There were no expansions in the local authority areas not listed in the table. Decisions on expansion proposals are taken by the local authority or by the schools adjudicator. Before 25 May 2007, decisions were taken by the School Organisation Committee rather than the local authority.

The Government are not involved in deciding expansion proposals, but do make available capital funding to encourage successful and popular schools to expand. The Government have allocated £35 million to enable 16 popular and successful schools to expand since June 2003.

	1999		2000		2001	
LEA	Number of proposals published	Of which: Approved	Number of proposals published	Of which: Approved	Number of proposals published	Of which: Approved
Barking and Dagenham	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barnet	—	—	—	—	1	1
Barnsley	—	—	—	—	2	2
Bedfordshire	—	—	1	1	—	—
Bexley	—	—	—	—	—	—
Birmingham	—	—	4	4	—	—
Blackburn with Darwen	—	—	1	1	5	5
Blackpool	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bolton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bournemouth	—	—	1	1	—	—
Bradford	—	—	—	—	1	1
Brent	1	1	—	—	1	1
Brighton and Hove	—	—	3	3	—	—
Bristol, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bromley	3	3	—	—	2	2
Buckinghamshire	—	—	1	1	—	—
Bury	—	—	—	—	—	—
Calderdale	—	—	1	1	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	3	3	3	3
Cheshire	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cornwall	—	—	—	—	1	1
Croydon	—	—	1	1	—	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Darlington	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	2	2
Devon	—	—	2	2	—	—
Doncaster	—	—	2	2	—	—
Dorset	—	—	—	—	1	1
Dudley	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ealing	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Riding of Yorkshire	6	6	—	—	—	—
East Sussex	—	—	—	—	1	1
Enfield	—	—	—	—	2	2
Essex	—	—	2	2	2	2
Gateshead	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	1	1	1	1	2	2
Greenwich	—	—	3	3	—	—
Hackney	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hampshire	1	1	3	3	2	2
Haringey	1	1	—	—	—	—
Harrow	—	—	—	—	2	2
Havering	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hillingdon	—	—	—	—	—	—
Islington	—	—	—	—	—	—

LEA	1999		2000		2001	
	Number of proposals published	Of which: Approved	Number of proposals published	Of which: Approved	Number of proposals published	Of which: Approved
Kent	3	3	14	14	3	3
Kingston upon Hull, City of	—	—	—	—	1	1
Kingston upon Thames	—	—	—	—	1	1
Kirklees	—	—	—	—	1	1
Lambeth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	—	—	1	1	—	—
Leeds	—	—	—	—	1	1
Leicester City	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leicestershire	1	1	—	—	—	—
Lewisham	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	1	1	1	1	—	—
Liverpool	—	—	—	—	2	2
Luton	3	3	1	1	—	—
Manchester	—	—	—	—	1	1
Medway	—	—	3	3	2	1
Merton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Middlesbrough	—	—	—	—	—	—
Milton Keynes	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newcastle upon Tyne	—	—	—	—	1	1
Newham	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norfolk	—	—	1	1	—	—
North Somerset	—	—	2	2	—	—
North Tyneside	3	3	—	—	1	1
North Yorkshire	—	—	3	3	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	—	6	6	—	—
Northumberland	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottingham, City of	—	—	—	—	1	1
Nottinghamshire	—	—	2	2	6	6
Oxfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peterborough, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plymouth, City of	—	—	—	—	1	1
Poole	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reading	1	1	1	1	—	—
Redbridge	—	—	—	—	—	—
Richmond upon Thames	—	—	1	1	—	—
Rochdale	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rotherham	—	—	1	1	2	2
Salford	—	—	—	—	2	2
Sandwell	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sefton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheffield	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shropshire	—	—	—	—	1	1
Slough	—	—	—	—	—	—
Solihull	1	0	—	—	—	—
Somerset	1	0	—	—	—	—
South Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southampton	—	—	3	3	—	—
Southwark	—	—	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire	1	1	1	1	—	—
Stockport	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stockton-on-Tees	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stoke-on-Trent	1	1	1	1	1	1
Suffolk	1	1	—	—	—	—
Surrey	1	1	2	2	—	—
Sutton	—	—	—	—	2	2
Swindon	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telford and Wrekin	—	—	1	1	1	1
Thurrock	—	—	—	—	—	—
Torbay	1	1	1	0	1	1
Tower Hamlets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafford	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wakefield	—	—	—	—	—	—

LEA	1999 Number of proposals published	1999 Of which: Approved	2000 Number of proposals published	2000 Of which: Approved	2001 Number of proposals published	2001 Of which: Approved
Walsall	—	—	2	1	—	—
Waltham Forest	—	—	—	—	2	2
Wandsworth	—	—	1	1	—	—
Warrington	2	2	1	1	—	—
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Sussex	—	—	1	0	1	1
Westminster	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wigan	—	—	—	—	2	2
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	1	1
Windsor and Maidenhead	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wirral	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wokingham	—	—	3	3	1	1
Wolverhampton	—	—	—	—	1	1
Worcestershire	—	—	—	—	3	3
York, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	34	32	83	80	74	73

LEA	2002 Number proposals published	2002 Of which: Approved	2003 Number proposals published	2003 Of which: Approved	2004 Number proposals published	2004 Of which: Approved
Barking and Dagenham	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barnet	1	1	—	—	—	—
Barnsley	—	—	1	1	1	1
Bedfordshire	2	2	—	—	—	—
Bexley	2	2	—	—	—	—
Birmingham	1	1	2	2	—	—
Blackburn with Darwen	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blackpool	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bolton	—	—	1	1	1	1
Bournemouth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bradford	4	4	—	—	—	—
Brent	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brighton and Hove	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bristol, City of	2	2	1	1	—	—
Bromley	—	—	—	—	1	1
Buckinghamshire	1	1	—	—	—	—
Bury	—	—	—	—	2	2
Calderdale	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cheshire	1	1	2	2	—	—
Cornwall	—	—	2	2	—	—
Croydon	—	—	1	1	—	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Darlington	—	—	1	1	—	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	1	1
Devon	2	2	—	—	—	—
Doncaster	—	—	—	—	1	0
Dorset	—	—	1	1	1	1
Dudley	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ealing	1	1	1	1	—	—
East Riding of Yorkshire	1	1	—	—	—	—
East Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enfield	—	—	1	1	1	1
Essex	1	1	—	—	1	0
Gateshead	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	2	2	—	—	—	—
Greenwich	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hackney	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hampshire	9	9	6	6	1	1
Haringey	—	—	1	1	2	2

LEA	2002		2003		2004	
	Number proposals published	Of which: Approved	Number proposals published	Of which: Approved	Number proposals published	Of which: Approved
Harrow	—	—	—	—	—	—
Havering	3	3	—	—	—	—
Hertfordshire	3	3	1	1	1	1
Hillingdon	3	3	—	—	2	2
Islington	—	—	—	—	1	1
Kent	4	4	7	7	2	2
Kingston upon Hull, City of	1	1	1	1	—	—
Kingston upon Thames	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kirklees	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lambeth	1	1	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	—	—	3	3	1	1
Leeds	—	—	1	1	1	1
Leicester City	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leicestershire	1	1	—	—	—	—
Lewisham	—	—	1	1	—	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	1	1
Liverpool	—	—	—	—	—	—
Luton	—	—	1	1	—	—
Manchester	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medway	1	1	—	—	—	—
Merton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Middlesbrough	—	—	1	1	—	—
Milton Keynes	1	1	5	5	1	1
Newcastle upon Tyne	—	—	6	6	—	—
Newham	—	—	—	—	1	1
Norfolk	18	18	—	—	8	8
North Somerset	1	1	—	—	5	5
North Tyneside	—	—	1	1	—	—
North Yorkshire	4	4	1	1	—	—
Northamptonshire	24	24	4	4	1	1
Northumberland	—	—	2	2	—	—
Nottingham, City of	1	1	3	3	—	—
Nottinghamshire	1	1	—	—	1	1
Oxfordshire	—	—	—	—	1	1
Peterborough, City of	—	—	2	2	—	—
Plymouth, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poole	1	1	—	—	—	—
Reading	1	1	—	—	—	—
Redbridge	—	—	—	—	—	—
Richmond upon Thames	—	—	—	—	1	1
Rochdale	—	—	2	1	—	—
Rotherham	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salford	—	—	—	—	1	1
Sandwell	1	1	—	—	—	—
Sefton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheffield	—	—	2	2	—	—
Shropshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slough	1	1	—	—	—	—
Solihull	—	—	1	1	—	—
Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Gloucestershire	—	—	2	2	—	—
Southampton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southwark	—	—	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire	—	—	1	1	2	2
Stockport	—	—	—	—	2	2
Stockton-on-Tees	1	1	—	—	—	—
Stoke-on-Trent	1	1	—	—	1	1
Suffolk	1	1	1	1	—	—
Surrey	—	—	2	2	—	—
Sutton	—	—	—	—	1	1
Swindon	1	1	—	—	1	1
Telford and Wrekin	—	—	4	4	1	1

LEA	2002 Number proposals published	2002 Of which: Approved	2003 Number proposals published	2003 Of which: Approved	2004 Number proposals published	2004 Of which: Approved
Thurrock	—	—	3	3	1	1
Torbay	1	1	—	—	—	—
Tower Hamlets	—	—	—	—	1	1
Trafford	—	—	1	1	—	—
Wakefield	—	—	1	1	1	1
Walsall	—	—	—	—	—	—
Waltham Forest	1	1	—	—	3	3
Wandsworth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warrington	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Sussex	2	2	—	—	—	—
Westminster	—	—	—	—	1	1
Wigan	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Windsor and Maidenhead	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wirral	3	3	1	1	—	—
Wokingham	—	—	—	—	1	1
Wolverhampton	1	1	—	—	1	1
Worcestershire	—	—	—	—	1	1
York, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	113	113	82	81	62	60

LEA	2005 Number of proposals published	2005 Of which: Approved	2006 Number of proposals published	2006 Of which: Approved	2007 Number of proposals published	2007 Of which: Approved	Total Number of proposals published	Total Of which: Approved
Barking and Dagenham	—	—	3	3	—	—	3	3
Barnet	1	1	—	—	1	1	4	4
Barnsley	—	—	2	2	—	—	6	6
Bedfordshire	1	1	2	1	1	1	7	6
Bexley	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Birmingham	—	—	3	3	—	—	10	10
Blackburn with Darwen	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Blackpool	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bolton	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Bournemouth	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bradford	4	4	—	—	—	—	9	9
Brent	1	1	4	4	—	—	7	7
Brighton and Hove	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Bristol, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Bromley	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Buckinghamshire	—	—	2	2	2	2	6	6
Bury	—	—	1	0	—	—	3	2
Calderdale	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cambridgeshire	—	—	3	3	—	—	10	10
Cheshire	—	—	2	2	—	—	6	6
Cornwall	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Croydon	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	3
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	2
Darlington	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Derbyshire	1	1	—	—	—	—	4	4
Devon	1	1	2	2	2	2	9	9
Doncaster	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2
Dorset	1	0	—	—	—	—	4	3
Dudley	—	—	2	2	—	—	2	2
Ealing	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	3
East Riding of Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
East Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Enfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Essex	1	1	—	—	2	2	9	8
Gateshead	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1

	2005		2006		2007		Total	
LEA	Number of proposals published	Of which: Approved	Number of proposals published	Of which: Approved	Number of proposals published	Of which: Approved	Number of proposals published	Of which: Approved
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Greenwich	—	—	—	—	2	2	5	5
Hackney	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	2
Hampshire	—	—	—	—	2	2	24	24
Haringey	1	1	—	—	—	—	5	5
Harrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Havering	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	4
Hertfordshire	2	2	3	3	3	2	13	12
Hillingdon	1	1	—	—	—	—	6	6
Islington	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Kent	—	—	—	—	1	1	34	34
Kingston upon Hull, City of	3	3	—	—	—	—	6	6
Kingston upon Thames	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	3
Kirklees	—	—	1	0	—	—	2	1
Lambeth	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	2
Lancashire	—	—	1	1	—	—	6	6
Leeds	—	—	1	1	—	—	4	4
Leicester City	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	2
Leicestershire	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	4
Lewisham	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Lincolnshire	—	—	1	1	—	—	4	4
Liverpool	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	2
Luton	—	—	2	2	—	—	7	7
Manchester	—	—	1	1	2	2	4	4
Medway	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	5
Merton	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
Middlesbrough	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Milton Keynes	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
Newcastle upon Tyne	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
Newham	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	2
Norfolk	2	2	—	—	—	—	29	29
North Somerset	1	1	—	—	—	—	9	9
North Tyneside	1	1	—	—	—	—	6	6
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	1	1	9	9
Northamptonshire	2	2	7	6	2	2	46	45
Northumberland	—	—	6	6	—	—	8	8
Nottingham, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	10
Oxfordshire	2	2	1	1	—	—	4	4
Peterborough, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Plymouth, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Poole	1	1	—	—	3	3	5	5
Reading	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Redbridge	1	1	2	2	—	—	3	3
Richmond upon Thames	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Rochdale	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Rotherham	1	1	—	—	—	—	4	4
Salford	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Sandwell	—	—	2	2	5	5	8	8
Sefton	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
Sheffield	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Shropshire	1	1	1	1	—	—	3	3
Slough	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	2
Solihull	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	2
Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0
South Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Southampton	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	4
Southwark	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
Staffordshire	1	1	—	—	1	1	7	7
Stockport	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Stockton-on-Tees	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

LEA	2005		2006		2007		Total	
	Number of proposals published	Of which: Approved	Number of proposals published	Of which: Approved	Number of proposals published	Of which: Approved	Number of proposals published	Of which: Approved
Stoke-on-Trent	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Surrey	1	1	—	—	—	—	6	6
Sutton	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	4
Swindon	2	2	—	—	—	—	4	4
Telford and Wrekin	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
Thurrock	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Torbay	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3
Tower Hamlets	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Trafford	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	2
Wakefield	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Walsall	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Waltham Forest	—	—	2	2	—	—	8	8
Wandsworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Warrington	—	—	2	2	—	—	5	5
Warwickshire	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
West Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3
Westminster	—	—	3	3	—	—	4	4
Wigan	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Wiltshire	1	1	—	—	1	1	3	3
Windsor and Maidenhead	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	2
Wirral	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Wokingham	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
Wolverhampton	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Worcestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
York, City of	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
Total	38	37	72	68	48	46	606	590

Taxis

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by his Department and its predecessor on taxis in the last 12 months. [163210]

Kevin Brennan: Details of expenditure on taxis incurred by the Department over the last 12 months are as follows:

1 October 2006 to 31 October 2007: £309,765.

The expenditure is based on staff travel claims and approved invoices received from taxi companies paid via the Department's Integrated Financial Information System. The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007 as a result of a Machinery of Government change and the costs identified above include those of the predecessor department (Department for Education and Skills) and also those costs incurred by the newly created Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills where these costs relate to areas formerly the responsibility of the Department for Education and Skills.

Teachers: Special Educational Needs

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what professional in-service training sessions his Department provides to teachers and head teachers on *(a)* tackling bullying of children with special educational needs and *(b)* the academic attainment and attendance of children with special educational needs. [164459]

Kevin Brennan: Continuing professional development plays an important role in improving the knowledge, understanding and skills of teachers and other staff in schools. Training in special educational needs (SEN) and disability is a national CPD priority, and schools may use their School Development Grant to secure appropriate training geared to identified needs, either in relation to individual members of staff or the school's work force as a whole.

We have asked the Anti-Bullying Alliance and National Strategies to work with schools and local authorities to embed effective anti-bullying practice on the ground. We have flagged up with them that the bullying of children with SEN and disability is a key priority and asked them to work with local authorities and schools to identify any training needs in this area. We have also commissioned the Council for Disabled Children to provide specific guidance for schools on tackling the bullying of children with SEN and disabilities, and will publish this next spring. This will include information and material which local authorities and schools will be able to draw on for training purposes.

In addition, the Department has funded a number of programmes which help develop children's and young people's pro-social skills and tackle poor behaviour, including bullying, such as the Living for Sport programme and the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) curriculum resource, as well as delivering targeted support to the most vulnerable children and young people through the Targeted Youth Support programme.

All local authorities and schools must have regard to the SEN code of practice which provides advice on

carrying out statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for pupils' special educational needs. Schools' responsibilities include ensuring that teachers and other staff receive appropriate professional development to support them in performing their responsibilities effectively.

To help teachers and other staff in building their confidence in working to raise the attainment, attendance and emotional well-being of children with SEN and disabilities the Department launched, on 17 October, the Inclusion Development programme. The opening round focuses on training in relation to children's communication difficulties, including dyslexia.

HEALTH

St. Helier Hospital: Nurses

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses were employed at St. Helier Hospital, Surrey in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [164053]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested can be found in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services: qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in the specified organisations as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*[1]
Total of specified organisations	1,960	1,890	1,672	1,648	1,545	1,578	1,805	1,985	2,038	2,003
Epsom Health Care NHS Trust	720	720	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
St. Helier NHS Trust	1,240	1,170	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	[2]	[2]	1,672	1,648	1,545	1,578	1,805	1,985	2,038	2,003

[1] More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures. This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

[2] Not applicable.

Note:

In April 1999, Epsom Health Care NHS Trust and St. Helier NHS Trust merged to form Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Asperger's Syndrome

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people in England have been diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome in each of the last five years; [162837]

(2) how many people in England have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder in each of the last five years; [162838]

(3) how many people in each county of England diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder are receiving support for that condition; [162839]

(4) how many people in each county of England diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome are receiving support specifically for that condition; [162840]

(5) what funds have been provided by the Government to support those diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome and their carers in each of the last five years. [162841]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally. The Government provide money to local councils and national health service trusts each year and it is for primary care trusts and councils with social services responsibilities to plan and commission appropriate services such as respite care for their local population including people with autistic spectrum conditions, this includes Asperger's syndrome. This should be in line with good practice guidance: "Better services for people with an autistic spectrum disorder: A note clarifying current Government policy and describing good practice" is available in the Library and also at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_065242

The National Directors of Learning Disability and Mental Health published this document on 16 November 2006 to assist those working with people with autistic spectrum disorders (ASD). It clarifies how existing policies apply to people with ASD and how these may best be delivered to this group.

There have been substantial increases in the level of government funding provided for social services and NHS trusts in recent years. For 2007-08 the Government will provide £65 billion to local authorities which includes giving money to personal social services. We gave almost £93 billion to the NHS in 2007-08.

Breast Feeding

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the health benefits of breastfeeding for (i) babies and (ii) mothers. [164701]

Ann Keen: The most recent research commissioned from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is the "Public Health Guidance to improve the nutrition of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and children in low-income households". This guidance focuses on low-income and other disadvantaged groups. The draft guidance was published for consultation in August 2007 with the expected date of issue being March 2008.

Brent Teaching Primary Care Trust: KPMG

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of KPMG's consultancy for Brent Teaching Primary Care Trust. [164206]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a matter for the local national health service.

I have asked the chair of Brent Teaching Primary Care Trust to write to the hon. Member regarding this matter.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Government funding for biomedical research in ME/chronic fatigue syndrome is ring-fenced. [164079]

Dawn Primarolo: The usual practice of the Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and of the Medical Research Council (MRC) is not to ring fence funds for expenditure on particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. Both organisations welcome applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made.

The research concerned with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis that the MRC and the NIHR are currently funding has been subject to these transparent and rigorous processes.

Cochlear Implants

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cochlear *(a)* unilateral and *(b)* bilateral implants have been performed on (i) children and (ii) adults in each NHS trust in each year since 2002-03. [162833]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) for bilateral and unilateral cochlear implants from 2002-03 to 2005-06 is shown in the following table.

Count of finished consultant episodes for bilateral and unilateral cochlear implants from 2002-03 to 2005-06, national health service hospitals, England

	Bilateral	Unilateral	Not known	Total
18 and over				
2005-06	*	201	*	215
2004-05	*	192	*	209
2003-04	*	189	*	209
2002-03	*	174	*	188
Under 18				
2005-06	6	266	14	286
2004-05	8	239	20	267
2003-04	*	227	*	252
2002-03	*	178	*	214

Notes:
Procedure codes used
D24.1 Implantation of intracochlear prosthesis.
D24.2 Implantation of extracochlear prosthesis.
Laterality codes used
Z94.1 Bilateral
Z94.2 Right sided operation
Z94.3 Left sided operation
Z94.4 Unilateral operation
The not known column shows where D24.1 or D24.2 are present but no code has been entered for the laterality of the procedure.
Low Numbers
Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk).
Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source:
HES, the Information Centre for health and social care.

Consent to Medical Treatment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps *(a)* he has taken and *(b)* he is planning to take to ensure that healthcare professionals comply with a patient's advance decision to refuse treatment in certain circumstances; and if he will make a statement. [165447]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Mental Capacity Act (MCA), which applies in England and Wales, came fully into force in October 2007 and puts advance decisions to refuse treatment onto a statutory footing. The MCA Code of Practice, issued in April 2007 gives details of the Act's provisions on advance decisions and sets out health professionals' responsibilities. The Code and the training materials we have issued make clear that healthcare professionals must follow an advance decision to refuse treatment if it is valid and applies to the particular circumstances. If they do not, they could face civil liability or criminal prosecution.

It is for individual trusts to put in place procedures for implementing the MCA locally. The Act requires the Public Guardian to produce an annual report on the implementation of the MCA.[3]

Dental Services: Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there were in each constituency in England in each year since 1997; and how many of them *(a)* admitted new adult patients to their list and *(b)* treated NHS patients between the ages of 18 and 65 years in each those years. [164110]

Ann Keen: Information is available on the numbers of national health service dentists. Information is available on the number of patients receiving NHS dental services but not in a form that provides information on how many of dentists individually accepted new NHS patients.

Information is available by parliamentary constituency for the period 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2006. For the period 1 April 2006 onwards information is available only at primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) level. It could be made available only by constituency at disproportionate cost.

Annex G of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006" provides the constituency level data on the numbers of NHS dentists as at 31 March 1997 and each subsequent year

3. *[Official Report, 15 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 9MC.]*

to 31 March 2006. This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

The numbers of NHS dentists at PCT and SHA level as at 31 March 2007 are available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07 report".

The numbers quoted for both periods are headcounts and therefore do not distinguish between full-time and part-time NHS commitment. Most dentists divide their time between NHS and private dental care.

The inclusion of dentists on trust-led contracts in the data collection following the 2006 reforms means that data for the period since 1 April 2006 cannot be directly compared with data collected under the previous system.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which departmental budget items have been reclassified, under Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, following Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 decisions; and what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case. [164516]

Mr. Bradshaw: There have been no reclassification of departmental budgets as a result of the comprehensive spending review 2007 decisions.

Departmental Flexible Working

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours (i) in the Department and (ii) the executive agencies for which the Department is responsible. [164319]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department encourages staff to work flexibly through providing opportunities for part-time working, job sharing and the use of flexitime, and these practices are widespread. It also encourages other arrangements such as spreading working hours over nine days within a fortnight or four days within a week. It also provides the technology to allow staff to work at home on occasions. The Department also has in place specific arrangements to allow parents, adopters, guardians and foster carers of children under six (or disabled children under 18) to apply to work flexibly. Requests to adopt any of these arrangements, and the approval to do so, are handled locally, so the Department does not have information available centrally on the numbers of people who have applied or have been approved.

In MHRA, requests and approvals are also handled locally, so there is no central record of this information.

NHS PASA has a flexitime system that is available to all staff. Its latest staff survey in 2006 indicated that 63 per cent. of staff have taken up this facility.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest; and if he will make a statement. [164161]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [164510]

Mr. Bradshaw: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers". Copies of the "Model Contract" are available in the Library.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what opinion polls his Department has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164949]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since 27 June 2007 the Department has carried out two pieces of research involving the public:

Title: Perceptions of Our NHS Our Future

Company: GfK NOP

Purpose: Communications research with the public and staff for the "Our NHS Our Future" review.

Cost: £56,958

Title: Public Attitude to NHS

Company: IPSOS MORI

Purpose: A regular tracking study with the public to monitor perceptions of the NHS

Cost: £40,872

Since 27 June 2007 the Department has conducted one small-scale staff survey to gauge perceptions on issues of leadership, morale and motivation. It was administered and analysed by departmental staff rather than engaging a firm to do so.

Departmental Relations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means his Department plans to increase its engagement with voluntary organisations through using the Compact. [162440]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2002, the Department wrote to all national health service organisations in England asking them to sign up to, or be working towards, a geographically relevant local compact by 31 March 2004. I made a fresh commitment to the principles of the Compact on 1 December 2006 in a joint statement with Stuart Etherington, chief executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to Table 2.4 of his Department's evidence to the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists'

remuneration, how many full-time equivalent staff he expects NHS revenue spending on pay for staff who are not directly employed in the NHS to provide in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11. [163379]

Ann Keen: Workforce planning is managed by local national health service organisations. Primary care trusts are responsible for commissioning services to meet the needs of their local population and therefore the workforce required will depend on how local organisations implement NHS priorities.

Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the number of places available for Foundation Year 1 doctors reflects a reduction in hours arising from the application of the EU Working Time Directive; [164575]

(2) how many Foundation Year 1 places he plans to provide for junior doctors from August 2008. [164588]

Ann Keen: In England, almost 6,000 foundation places are available to be filled through the national recruitment exercise that began in October. In addition, there are approximately 300 academic places available. Successful applicants will take up these posts in August 2008.

The number of training places for foundation year 1 doctors takes account of the overall likely requirements for doctors in the future including the effect of changing working patterns such as the European working time directive.

Fats: Health Hazards

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the implications for health of hydrogenated fats. [164182]

Dawn Primarolo: We have asked the Food Standards Agency to review the health impacts of trans fats, including those derived from partially hydrogenated vegetable oils by the end of the year.

General Practitioners: Recruitment

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs are to be recruited, and over what period, to practise in the East Lancashire primary care trust area and other doctored areas in England. [162139]

Mr. Bradshaw: Workforce planning is a matter for local determination, as local workforce planners are best placed to assess the general practitioner needs of their local population. The Department continues to ensure the frameworks are in place to support this.

General Practitioners: Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to issue guidance to general practitioners on the use of 0844 revenue-sharing telephone numbers; and if he will make a statement; [162416]

(2) if he will make a statement on the implementation of the new GP Surgery Line telephone system; [162854]

(3) what guidance his Department has issued to primary care trusts on the use of 0844 revenue-sharing telephone numbers; when such guidance was issued; and if he will make a statement. [162855]

Mr. Bradshaw: The provision of telephone services for patients and the public is a matter for the local national health service. The Department did however issue guidance in December of last year clearly setting out that patients should not be charged more than the equivalent of a local call.

General Practitioners: Training

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors have *(a)* started and *(b)* completed training for general practice in each financial year since 1997-98 for which figures are available. [162199]

Ann Keen: This information is not collated centrally. However, the information in the table shows the number of doctors in general practice each year since 1997 and the number of general practitioner (GP) in training (GP registrars), may prove useful.

Headcount

	GPs (excluding registrars and retainers)	*GP registrars*
1997	28,046	1,343
1998	28,251	1,446
1999	28,467	1,520
2000	28,593	1,659
2001	28,802	1,883
2002	29,202	1,980
2003	30,358	2,235
2004	31,523	2,562
2005	32,738	2,564
2006	33,091	2,278

Source:
General and Personal Medical Services Census.

Health Services

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the draft versions of the updated specialised services national definition set will be circulated for consultation to the wider stakeholder community, including patients' groups. [164006]

Ann Keen: The national specialised commissioning team will start consulting with stakeholders in December 2007 about the initial eight updated definitions from the specialised services national definition set. Stakeholders will include the relevant patient groups in each service area.

Health Services: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid out by the NHS litigation authority in respect of each NHS trust in Hertfordshire in each of the last three years. [165275]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is in the following table:

Payments made by the NHS Litigation Authority to trusts in Hertfordshire in each of the last three years

£

Member name	Payment year[1]	Clinical negligence scheme for trusts[2]	Existing liabilities scheme[3]	Risk pooling scheme for trusts[4]
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Ambulance and Paramedic Service NHS Trust[5]	2004-05	16,882	0	151,844
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	2004-05	6,916,561	52,149	192,217
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	2004-05	3,867,268	14,443	261,500
Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust	2004-05	153,857	5,307	78,508
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Ambulance and Paramedic Services NHS Trust[5]	2005-06	4,345	0	43,594
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	2005-06	1,731,705	206,810	609,947
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	2005-06	1,822,940	48,999	88,746
Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust	2005-06	105,579	24,121	93,068
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	2006-07	4,899,635	158,422	172,652
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	2006-07	3,142,830	3,031,002	133,120
Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust	2006-07	505,387	19,334	66,993
East of England Ambulance NHS Trust[5]	2006-07	40,026	0	142,475

[1] This year does not reflect when an incident occurred or when a claim was made.
[2] The Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST), which covers clinical negligence liabilities arising from 1 April 1995.
[3] The Existing Liabilities Scheme (ELS), which covers clinical negligence liabilities arising from before 1 April 1995.
[4] The Risk Pooling Scheme for Trusts (RPST), which covers non-clinical liabilities to third parties and property expenses. This scheme operates with an excess, so trusts may have made local payments against claims that fell below the excess threshold. The NHSLA does not collect this information.
[5] These trusts cover areas beyond Hertfordshire, and therefore payments include service this geographical area.
Source:
NHS Litigation Authority.

Health Spending

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 178W, on health spending, how many finished consultant episodes there were in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2007-08. [166297]

Mr. Bradshaw: There has been no update to the answer of 13 November 2007 regarding finished consultant episodes.

Heart Diseases: Rehabilitation

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how long on average patients requiring cardiac rehabilitation waited to be referred to each NHS hospital trust in England in the last year for which figures are available. [164113]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect this information centrally.

Hospices: Children

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much has been spent on children's hospices from *(a)* the public purse and *(b)* voluntary contributions in each of the last five years; [163709]

(2) what guidance he has provided to primary care trusts on their funding of children's hospices. [163710]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We do not collect centrally, information on the amount of money primary care trusts spend on hospices. Neither do we have any information on the amount of funding hospices receive from donations or from fees.

However, the Department has made available an additional £27 million over three years to be given to hospices as grants. Thirty six grants were awarded in October 2006 and a further 40 this summer. The final tranche will be awarded in 2008.

The National Service Framework for Children, Families and Maternity Services, published on 15 September 2004, set standards for local authorities, primary care trusts (PCTs) and national health service trusts to ensure that children's palliative care services provide high quality, sensitive support. It remains a matter for PCTs to decide for themselves how that level of service can be provided.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice his Department provides to NHS trusts on safe travelling times for *(a)* heart attack and *(b)* stroke patients for emergency admissions; how many hospitals in England accept acute admissions; and how many hospitals which accept acute admissions have people in their catchment area living more than 10 miles from the hospital. [166087]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* No guidance has been issued on safe travelling times by the Department.

Information on acute admissions is not collected in the format requested. At the end of June 2007, there were 155 national health service trusts reporting emergency admissions via type 1 (major) A&E departments. This does not include planned admissions in acute specialities. Information is not centrally collected in terms of how many hospitals which accept acute admissions have people in their catchment area living more than 10 miles from the hospital.

Only in some cases will the time taken between pick up of the patient and arriving at A&E be the most important consideration. In most cases it is the initial response, the treatment and diagnosis and quality of care, including specialist care, that matter most. Patients with severe trauma, appropriate heart attack and stroke victims may be best helped by being taken directly to specialist units, receiving care on the way to hospital. This may not be the nearest hospital—the right place might often be a specialist unit where they see enough cases to maintain expertise and achieve the best outcomes.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the deep clean of *(a)* Whipps Cross hospital and *(b)* King George's hospital to be undertaken. [165969]

Mr. Bradshaw: As the Prime Minister made clear, deep cleaning will occur in all hospitals, starting this winter, with resources allocated through the strategic health authorities (SHAs). All trusts will submit costed deep clean plans to their lead commissioners who will monitor performance against this plan, as per normal performance management arrangements, and SHAs will take an overview as to progress across their area.

Information on plans of individual trusts is therefore not routinely collected by the Department.

Hospitals: Hygiene

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the hygiene risk posed by Christmas decorations; and if he will make a statement. [163626]

Dawn Primarolo: None.

Individual Learning Accounts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much annual budgets for Individual Learning Accounts for support staff were worth in each financial year since 1997-98 for which figures are available. [162241]

Ann Keen: £180 million pump-priming funding was provided to strategic health authorities over three years from 2002-03 to 2005-06 to support staff in the lowest pay bands and career grades to take-up of national vocational qualifications and learning accounts. This has fulfilled the commitment made in the NHS Plan.

Following the pump-priming, the Department devolved further funding responsibility to SHAs in 2006-07.

Malnutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of finished episodes of care with a primary diagnosis of *(a)* malnutrition and *(b)* nutritional anaemias had a secondary diagnosis of (i) coronary heart disease, (ii) stroke and transient ischemic attack, (iii) diabetes, (iv) chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, (v) cancer, (vi) dementia, (vii) depression and (viii) chronic kidney disease in each year since 1997. [164604]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the count of finished consultant episodes where the primary diagnosis was malnutrition or nutritional anaemia and the proportion of these that also had secondary diagnosis of either coronary heart disease, stroke and ischemic attack, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, cancer, dementia, depression or chronic kidney disease, in each year from 1997-98 to 2005-06 (which are the latest data available).

National health service hospitals, England

	Finished consultant episodes with a primary diagnosis of malnutrition or nutritional anaemia	*Finished consultant episodes with a primary diagnosis of malnutrition or nutritional anaemia and a secondary diagnosis of either coronary heart disease, stroke and ischemic attack, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, cancer, dementia, depression or chronic kidney disease*	*Percentage*
2005-06	51,826	14,496	28
2004-05	46,238	11,985	26
2003-04	42,762	10,275	24
2002-03	38,147	9,210	24
2001-02	34,289	7,729	23
2000-01	32,146	6,795	21
1999-2000	30,060	6,248	21
1998-99	28,470	5,675	20
1997-98	27,309	5,433	20

Notes:
1. Diagnosis (primary diagnosis)
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
2. Secondary diagnoses
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
3. Finished consultant episode (FCE)
A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
4. Ungrossed data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were *(a)* admitted to and *(b)* discharged from hospital with a primary or secondary diagnosis of (i) malnutrition and (ii) nutritional anaemias in each year since 1997-98. [164605]

Ann Keen: The information is shown in the following tables.

Count of finished in year admission and discharge episodes where there was a primary or secondary diagnosis of malnutrition (E40-E46 and O25)—national health service hospitals, England, 2005-06 to 1997-98

	Finished in year admission episodes	*In year discharge episodes*
2005-06	1,944	2,265
2004-05	1,791	2,006
2003-04	1,602	1,818
2002-03	1,528	1,719
2001-02	1,362	1,517
2000-01	1,224	1,381
1999-2000	1,366	1,540
1998-99	1,248	1,415
1997-98	1,236	1,410

Count of finished in year admission and discharge episodes where there was a primary or secondary diagnosis of nutritional anaemia (D50-D53)—NHS hospitals, England, 2005-06 to 1997-98

	Finished in year admission episodes	*In year discharge episodes*
2005-06	104,854	111,294
2004-05	93,877	99,213
2003-04	85,977	90,800
2002-03	78,159	82,236
2001-02	71,367	75,194
2000-01	70,752	74,520
1999-2000	68,544	71,866
1998-99	66,546	70,021
1997-98	64,339	68,353

Manchester Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients being cared for by each Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust Community Services Home Team *(a)* have changed their support workers in the last four months, *(b)* have been discharged back to their GPs in the last four months, *(c)* no longer have a support worker and *(d)* have a care manager who is not permanently in the team; [163062]

(2) how many patients in the community being cared for by each Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust Community Services Team have changed care manager in the last four months; [163063]

(3) how many Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust Community Services teams are closed to referrals; [163064]

(4) how many patients have had their hospital discharge delayed because a community service is not available to them under the auspices of Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust Community Services; [163065]

(5) how many patients being cared for by Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust Community Services in *(a)* north, *(b)* central and *(c)* south Manchester are receiving (i) acute home treatment as an alternative to admission and (ii) outreach services; [163066]

(6) how many patients being cared for by Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust Community Services are *(a)* receiving an early intervention in psychosis service and *(b)* waiting to be admitted to hospital; [163067]

(7) what the sickness levels among staff in Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust Community Services teams were in 2006-07; [163069]

(8) how many patients each Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust Community Services Team has on its waiting list to be allocated to a care manager. [163508]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The requested information is not collected and validated centrally. However, it can be obtained by contacting Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust directly.

Maternity Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* consultant-led, *(b)* midwife-led and *(c)* other NHS maternity units there were in each region of England in the latest two periods for which figures are available. [163276]

Ann Keen: We are not aware of any NHS maternity units that are neither consultant nor midwife led.

National statistics for maternity units are collected by trust instead of by individual unit so there are no regular data collections of units. The following table gives the number of units at a one off collection in March 2007.

Region	*Number of consultant-led units*	*Number of midwife-led units*
East Midlands	11	4
East of England	19	9
London	30	13
North East	12	6
North West	28	8
South Central	11	16
South East Coastal	16	6
South West	16	21
West Midlands	19	10
Yorkshire and Number	19	8
England	281	101

Source:
The Healthcare Commission

Medical Equipment

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the names and specialties are of the healthcare professionals who carried out the classification of products in the latest consultation on Part IX of the Drug Tariff. [163868]

Dawn Primarolo: 12 healthcare professionals advised the Department on the proposed classification of items. The names of those who have given agreement to publish their names are shown as follows.

Name	*Specialist area*
Penny Taylor	Urostomy
Carolyn Stammers	Urostomy
Judy Hanley	Urostomy
Kirn Walker	Urostomy
Maggie Soulsby	Urostomy
Catherine Williams	Urology
Karon Young	Urology

These names have been shared with industry and will be placed on the Department's website.

Medical Treatments Abroad

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have accessed treatment abroad for which the NHS has paid in each of the last five years. [164060]

Dawn Primarolo: The following information relates to patients being referred abroad specifically for treatment. There are different routes under which patients can be sent abroad for treatment. We only hold information where the relevant authorisation has to be given by the Department. The following table shows the number of patients in the last five years where Department of Health authorisation has been given.

This Information covers patients from England, Scotland and Wales.

	Number of E112's issued
2002	1,120
2003	1,052
2004	353
2005	228
2006	357

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to respond to the letter of 6 October from the hon. Member for Eddisbury on malnutrition. [164572]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A reply was issued on 15 November 2007.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to reply to the letter of 28 June 2007 from the hon. Member for Eddisbury to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State on the Registered Nursing Care Contribution. [164599]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I regret the hon. Member's letter was not received by the Department. A copy has now been obtained and a reply will be sent shortly.

Mental Health Services: Greater Manchester

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the provision of mental health services in the City of Manchester. [162040]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Mental health services in the City of Manchester are primarily provided by the Manchester Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust. At the end of 2005, the primary care trust and Manchester city council undertook a public consultation on the future direction of mental health services, entitled Change in Mind, which gave a mandate to reorganise mental health services to meet the requirements of the National Service Frameworks, through a combination of redesign and new investment. PCTs and the city council have underpinned these changes by an additional £4 million of recurrent investment.

Services provided by Manchester Health and Social Care Trust were reviewed to modernise ways of work and to increase community provision. Key changes include new specialist services for people with mental health problems; integrated community health and social care services for older people with mental health problems, improved access to emergency mental health services and stronger emphasis on social inclusion. Full implementation commenced from April 2007.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of primary care trusts that have fully implemented all National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines. [165162]

Dawn Primarolo: Performance in implementing National Institute for Heath and Clinical Excellence (NICE) technology appraisals and clinical guidelines is included within the scope of the Healthcare Commission's Annual Healthcheck. The 2006-07 annual health check self-assessments, which have been subject to targeted and random inspections by the Healthcare Commission, show that 89 per cent. of national health service organisations assess themselves as conforming with NICE'S technology appraisal guidance. 90 per cent. of NHS trusts have assessed themselves as making excellent, good or fair progress towards implementing NICE's clinical guidelines.

The full ratings have been published on the Healthcare Commission's website at:

www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/_db/_documents/Annual_health_check_national_overview_2006-2007.pdf

NHS: Finance

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the financial position of each NHS trust is; and if he will make a statement. [164569]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is shown in the following table.

NHS trusts quarter 1 2007-08 forecast outturn surplus/(deficit)

Trust name	*2007-08 Q1 forecast outturn surplus/(deficit)*
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	15,700
East London and The City MH NHS Trust	11,279
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	10,020
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust	10,000
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	9,465
Southampton University Hosps NHS Trust	8,900
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	8,024
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	7,600
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	7,127
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	7,000
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	7,000
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	5,963
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	5,636
Barts and The London NHS Trust	5,400
Bedford Hospitals NHS Trust	5,173
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	5,017
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	5,000
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	5,000
Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust	4,807
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	4,805
Whipps Cross University Hosp NHS Trust	4,686
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust	4,500
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	4,500
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	4,500
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hosps NHS Trust	4,500
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	4,100
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	4,006
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	4,000
North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	3,500
North Middlesex University Hosp NHS Trust	3,000
St Mary's NHS Trust	3,000
East Cheshire NHS Trust	3,000
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	2,823
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	2,800
Nth Cumbria MH and Learning Disab NHS Trust	2,716
Leeds Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust	2,625
North Bristol NHS Trust	2,600
Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust	2,600
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	2,594
The Royal Nat Orthopaedic Hosp NHS Trust	2,504
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	2,450
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	2,400
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	2,369
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	2,201
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	2,200
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust	2,120
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	2,039
United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	2,000
Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust	2,000
Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust	2,000
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey MH NHS Trust	2,000
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	1,900
Lancashire Care NHS Trust	1,811
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	1,800
Camden and Islington Mental Health Social Care NHS Trust	1,750
The Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	1,727

NHS trusts quarter 1 2007-08 forecast outturn surplus/(deficit)

Trust name	*2007-08 Q1 forecast outturn surplus/(deficit)*
SW London and St. George's Mental Hlth NHS Trust	1,700
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	1,657
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	1,600
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	1,500
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	1,487
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust	1,447
Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	1,400
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hosps NHS Trust	1,400
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	1,282
Doncaster and South Humber Hlthcare NHS Trust	1,159
Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust	1,156
Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust	1,144
Rob Jones and A Hunt Orthopaedic NHS Trust	1,134
North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	1,106
Devon Partnership NHS Trust	1,094
Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire MH Partnership NHS Trust	1,002
Central and North West London MH NHS Trust	1,000
Avon and Wiltshire MHP NHS Trust	1,000
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	1,000
Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust	996
Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust	907
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	870
Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust	858
Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust	835
5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust	825
Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	772
Suffolk MH Partnership NHS Trust	744
Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust	690
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust	677
The Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	670
Nuffield Orthopaedic NHS Trust	660
Pennine Care NHS Trust	659
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	657
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	650
Winchester and Eastleigh Hlthcre NHS Trust	600
Medway NHS Trust	585
South West Yorkshire Mental Health NHS Trust	552
Bradford District Care NHS Trust	550
Airedale NHS Trust	545
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	502
Norfolk and Norwich Uni Hosp NHS Trust	501
Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust	500
Tameside and Glossop Acute Servs NHS Trust	500
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	500
Mersey Care NHS Trust	500
Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust	496
St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	466
Cent Manchester/Manchester Child NHS Trust	358
Humber Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust	356
Oxford Learning Disability NHS Trust	320
Sheffield Care NHS Trust	304
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	300
Sandwell MH Social Care NHS Trust	300

NHS trusts quarter 1 2007-08 forecast outturn surplus/(deficit)

Trust name	2007-08 Q1 forecast outturn surplus/(deficit)
Norfolk and Waveney MH Partnership NHS Trust	265
Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust	257
Worcestershire MH Partnership NHS Trust	207
Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Trust	207
Calderstones NHS Trust	200
Bolton, Salford and Trafford Mental Health NHS Trust	200
Mid Staffordshire Gen Hospitals NHS Trust	193
Cambs and Peterborough MH Partnership NHS Trust	181
Walton Neurology Centre NHS Trust	150
Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	140
Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust	121
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust	120
Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust	100
Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	100
North Staffs Combined HC NHS Trust	100
Royal Liverpool Broadgreen Hosps NHS Trust	100
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	100
North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust	75
North Lincolnshire and Goole Hosps NHS Trust	69
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	50
The Cardiothoracic Cntr—Liverpool NHS Trust	26
South Downs Health NHS Trust	18
Somerset Partnership NHS and Soc Care NHS Trust	2
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	0
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	0
Wirral Hospital NHS Trust	0
Scarborough and NE Yorks NHS Trust	0
Poole Hospitals NHS Trust	0
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hosps NHS Trust	0
Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust	0
South Warwickshire Gen Hosps NHS Trust	0
University Hospital Of North Staffordshire Hospital NHS Trust	0
Burton Hospitals NHS Trust	0
Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust	0
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	0
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	0
N Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	0
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	0
Bedfordshire and Luton MH and Social Care NHS Trust	0
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	0
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	0
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	0
Sussex Partnership NHS Trust	0
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust	0
Great Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust	0
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	0
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	0
Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust	0
Kent and Medway NHS and SC Partnership NHS Trust	0
West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust	0
East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust	0
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust	0
South West Ambulance Service NHS Trust	0
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust	0
Manchester Health and Social Care NHS Trust	0
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	(0)
West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust	(146)
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	(2,575)
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	(3,300)
West Middlesex University NHS Trust	(3,500)
Brighton and Sussex Univ Hosps NHS Trust	(4,500)
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	(4,614)
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	(5,000)
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	(5,400)
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	(6,150)
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	(6,532)
Univ Hosps Coventry a Warwickshire NHS Trust	(10,000)
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	(14,000)
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hosp NHS Trust	(14,295)
Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	(17,505)

Source:
Department financial monitoring returns

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by central Government on the NHS in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2007-08; and what the figure for 1996-97 is when adjusted for inflation. [166315]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service expenditure in 1996-97 was £33 billion, and the current forecast outturn position for 2007-08 is £90.4 billion. The £33 billion spend in 1996-97 is equivalent to £42.2 billion in current monetary values (uplift using gross domestic product deflators).

NHS: Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received from patient groups on the use of 0844 revenue-sharing telephone numbers; and if he will make a statement. [162853]

Mr. Bradshaw: We do not keep records on the number of inquiries about 0844 numbers we receive from patient groups. Since January 2007, we have received 100 letters on the subject of 0844 telephone numbers.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the report of the Government's task force on encouraging organ donations; and if he will make a statement. [164479]

Ann Keen: The Organ Donation Taskforce report is being considered by United Kingdom Health Ministers. A response will be published in due course. Currently between 7,000 and 8,000 people in the UK are waiting for a transplant. It is vital that we identify the barriers to organ donation, and identify what steps we can take to increase donor rates.

Prescriptions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were not used to collect medicines in each of the last five years for which records are available. [166084]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold information on prescriptions issued, only on prescription items that are dispensed.

Primary Care Trusts: Security

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to ensure that primary care trust staff have the experience and capabilities to ensure appropriate security for patients when they take over responsibility for health care escorts and bedwatches in April 2008. [165703]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Commissioning responsibility and funding for prison health care escorts and bedwatches activity is scheduled to transfer to the national health service from April 2008. Responsibility for managing and providing security escorts will, however, remain with Her Majesty's Prison Service.

Prison governing governors will continue to be responsible for conducting individual risk assessments and determining the level of security required for each escort event. This will include any additional security needs identified beyond the standard assignment of two prison officers per escort.

Ritalin: Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were prescribed Ritalin in each quarter since January 1980; and if he will make a statement. [163186]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not available to cover the timescale requested, or by each quarter. The following table shows an estimate of the number of prescription items of Ritalin (Methylphenidate Hydrochloride) prescribed to children for each year since 1999. This includes children aged 16 and under and those aged 17 and 18 in full-time education.

Number of items

BNF chemical name	*Name*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Methylphenidate Hydrochloride	Concerta	—	—	100	43,100	124,900	175,568	197,009	226,442
	Equasym	—	4,400	25,300	42,900	52,200	30,566	25,474	57,475
	Metadate	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—
	Methylphenidate HCL	—	—	—	200	200	61,881	98,128	100,383
	Ritalin	135,000	155,200	168,300	145,700	106,700	58,664	25,222	21,681
	Tranquilyn	—	—	—	—	200	702	20	—

Notes:
Prescription cost analysis data Prescription information is taken from the PCA system, supplied by the Prescription Pricing Division of the Business Services Authority (PPDBSA), and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. Also included are prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man but dispensed in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions. *Prescription items* Prescriptions are written on a prescription form. Each single item written on the form is counted as a prescription item. *Exemption category estimates* The exemption data is identified from the box ticked on the back of the prescription form and relies on the form being completed correctly which may not always be the case. Information for categories that are not required to pay a charge (e.g. children) is based on a one in 20 sample of all exempt prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacists, appliance contractors and dispensing doctors. The information we have is therefore an estimate and subject to sampling errors. Children are defined as 0 -15 year olds, and as 16 -18 year olds in full time education. *Dispensing doctors* Data up to 2000 is not strictly comparable with data from later years. Up until September 2000 only patients having their prescriptions dispensed by the community pharmacists and appliance contractors were required to complete the back of the prescription form, but from October 2000 this requirement was extended to patients of dispensing doctors. Therefore data prior to October 2000 does not include prescriptions dispensed by dispensing doctors.

Smoking

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff have been disciplined for breaking the public smoking ban inside the premises of his Department or its agencies. [164856]

Mr. Bradshaw: No members of staff have been disciplined for breaking the public smoking ban inside the premises of the Department or its agencies.

Social Services: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* personnel and *(b)* staff hours his Department allocated to supporting the Review of Social Care Funding; and what the cost of such allocation was. [164570]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not quantified the work of the Review of Social Care Funding. The allocation of personnel and staff hours varied according to the task at hand.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times the Review of Social Care Funding Group met in the period between its inception and the announcement of the comprehensive spending review; on what dates it met; what the cost of its operations were in this period; if he will publish the minutes of those meetings; what meetings the group has scheduled for the future; and how much he has allocated to the group for its further activities. [164571]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In the run-up to the comprehensive spending review the officials steering group responsible for planning the announcement of the Government's intention to publish a Green Paper on reform options

for the long-term sustainable funding for people in need of care and support met on 17 May 2006, 28 July 2006, 12 October 2006, 10 January 2007, 7 March 2007, 17 April 2007, 18 June 2007 and 12 September 2007.

The Department did not incur any costs associated with the steering group during this period, other than the time invested by its officials in attending the steering group itself as the secretariat for the officials steering group was based at HM Treasury.

Ministers and officials have discussions on a range of issues with their counterparts in other Departments and with other organisations as part of the process of policy analysis, development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

The officials steering group will continue to meet in the future to support the work of the Department around the Green Paper. Meetings will be arranged and resources allocated to support the group as necessary.

Spinal Injuries

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account his Department's health map takes of the special needs of spinal cord injured people. [165439]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's health map does not specifically take account of the special needs of spinal cord injured people.

Telecare Initiatives

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been allocated to the development of telecare initiatives in each of the past three years. [164058]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Through preventative technology grant the Department has allocated £80 million to local authorities over two years to support 160,000 older people stay in their own homes. This was allocated by a share of £30 million in 2006-07 and £50 million in 2007-08.

In addition £12 million has been made available in 2007-08 to support the whole system demonstrator (WSD) sites. Funding for the future years of the WSD sites is being agreed following the recent announcement of the Comprehensive Spending Review settlement for health.

The Department does not collect information on the level of local allocations for telecare initiatives. It is for local health and social services to establish their own priorities and allocate resources according to local need.

West Hertfordshire Acute Trust: Physiotherapy

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for physiotherapy treatment in West Hertfordshire Acute Trust in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [164106]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected centrally.

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust: Finance

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the financial position of West Hertfordshire NHS Trust; and if he will make a statement. [164568]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The table following shows the financial position of West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust the financial years 2005-06, 2006-07 and quarter one of the current financial year 2007-08.

West Hertfordshire hospitals NHS trust financial position

	£000
2005-06[1]	(26,785)
2006-07[2]	(11,413)
2007-08[3]	5,000

[1] Under/over spend.
[2] Under/(over) spend.
[3] Q1 forecast outturn surplus/(deficit).

The trust was in the national turnaround programme in 2006-07. There is no central turnaround programme in 2007-08.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Leader of the House how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained (A) temporary and (B) permanent jobs in her Office in 2007. [165116]

Helen Goodman: The information is as follows:

			Successful candidate	
Age category	*Applied*	*Interviewed*	*Permanent*	*Temporary/ FTA*
17-30	11	6	2	0
30-39	5	3	0	0
40-49	6	1	0	0
50-59	1	0	0	0
60-69	0	0	0	0
No age data provided	8	5	1	0
Total	31	15	3	0

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House whether her Office has conducted any public opinion polls since 27 June; and if she will make a statement. [165548]

Helen Goodman: There have been no public opinions polls conducted by the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons since 27 June.

Opinion Leader Research

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House how many contracts were awarded by her Department to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Department in each case. [165266]

Ms Harman: None.

Regional Select Committees

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House when her planned timetable is for the establishment of regional select committees. [165308]

Ms Harman: The Government are considering how best to take forward the ideas in the Governance of Britain Green Paper for committees to reflect the English regions. The Modernisation Select Committee of the House of Commons announced an inquiry into Regional Accountability on 11 October and the Government expect to submit a memorandum to that Committee.

Welsh Grand Committee

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Leader of the House if she will bring forward proposals to amend the procedures for setting up meetings of the Welsh Grand Committee. [166309]

Ms Harman: Meetings of the Welsh Grand Committee are set up under Standing Order No. 108, following discussion in the usual channels. The Government have no plans to seek to amend these procedures.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 21 November 2007

TRANSPORT

Cycleways

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the length in kilometres of cycle lanes in England in each year since 1997. [164762]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have only received details of new cycle lanes and cycle tracks from local highway authorities since 2001-02 when the Local Transport Plan reports began. However, this information is not complete as more recently provision of this information is not mandatory from authorities rated "good" and "excellent".

Local authorities outside London have reported through their Local Transport Plans they have built the following number of new cycle lanes since 2001/02.

	Cycle Lane (km)
2001-02	405
2002-03	369
2003-04	386
2004-05	308
2005-06	234
2006-07	140

Similar figures are not available for London Boroughs but Transport for London report that around 550 km of the London Cycle Network+ were completed by April 2007 with a target of 900km due for completion by the end of 2010.

Departmental Internet

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* revenue raised has been of the www.dvlaregistrations.co.uk website. [163304]

Jim Fitzpatrick: www.dvlaregistrations.co.uk was set up in 1998. The initial set-up cost was £30,000. Annual running costs for the latest two years are as follows:

	£000
2005-06	83.7
2006-07	77.8

No revenue is raised from the website. It is not a commercial site but is used by the public to ascertain the registration marks available for sale.

Departmental Public Consultations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what opinion polls the Department has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164946]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Opinion polls of the public and staff undertaken by the Department since 27 June 2007 are summarised in the tables. These include ongoing surveys (table A) with fieldwork running both before and after 27 June 2007, and ad-hoc surveys (table B) that were conducted after 27 June 2007.

A staff survey has been undertaken by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) (table C). There have been no other staff surveys conducted since 27 June 2007 in the Central Department or other agencies. However, this does not include smaller scale staff surveys (e.g. within specific directorates rather than across the whole Department) and to collect this information would be undertaken at a disproportionate cost.

(A) Ongoing Surveys

Division/ Agency	*Survey/ opinion poll*	*(i) Firm*	*(ii) Purpose*	*(iii) Cost (per annum) (£)*
DfT-ST	British social attitudes survey	NatCen	Measure attitudes towards transport as well as other non-transport policy areas	80,000
DfT-ST	Bus passenger satisfaction survey	GfK NOP	Measure satisfaction with local bus services	250,000
DfT-ST	Public attitude towards road pricing	ONS	Measure attitudes towards road pricing	77,136
DfT-ST	Public attitude towards climate change	ONS	Measure attitudes towards climate change	51,284
DfT-CD	THINK! Tracking Research	BMRB	Measure attitudes towards THINK campaign	358,474
DfT-CD	THINK! Seatbelts	TRL	Measure attitudes towards THINK Seatbelts campaign	[1]179,581
DfT-CD	CC Post advertising tracking	BMRB	Measure attitudes towards climate change campaign	35,750
DfT -TLLS	Directgov motoring awareness and usage omnibus	BMRB	Measuring attitudes towards Directgov	14,000
DfT-TLLS	Consumer customers' channel choice	TNS	Measuring customer attitude towards channel choice	48,000

(A) Ongoing Surveys

Division/ Agency	Survey/ opinion poll	(i) Firm	(ii) Purpose	(iii) Cost (per annum) (£)
HA	National road users satisfaction surveys	Faber Maunsell	Includes a number of surveys and qualitative research to measure satisfaction with HA services	[1]530,000
HA	Area road users satisfaction surveys	Faber Maunsell	Includes a number of surveys and qualitative research to measure satisfaction with HA services	[1]540,000
HA	Satisfaction with traffic officer service	Faber Maunsell	Measure satisfaction of the traffic officer service	20,000
HA	Measuring improvements in network and information services	Faber Maunsell	Measure satisfaction of network and information services	60,000
Total				2,244,225

[1] Includes qualitative research.

(B) Ad-hoc surveys

Division/ Agency	Survey/ opinion poll	(i) Firm	(ii) Purpose	(iii) Cost (£)
DfT-ST	Public attitude towards car sharing	NatCen	Measure attitudes towards car sharing	38,250
DfT-ST	Public attitude towards buses and concessionary fares	ONS	Measuring attitude towards buses and concessionary fares	43,164
DfT-CD	Post tracking Teen MTV Campaign	SMRC Childwise	Measure awareness of road safety MTV campaign	27,613
DfT-CD	Pre and post tracking Parents' Campaign	SMRC Childwise	Measure awareness of road safety Parents campaign	42,770
DfT-CD	THINK! Parents Campaign	Virtual surveys	Measure attitudes towards THINK Parents campaign	10,000
DfT-TLLS	Customers expectations of service standards	ORC	Measuring customer attitudes towards service standards	60,000

(B) Ad-hoc surveys

Division/ Agency	Survey/ opinion poll	(i) Firm	(ii) Purpose	(iii) Cost (£)
HA	Satisfaction with traffic management trial at junctions 19 and 12 of M25	Faber Maunsell	Measures satisfaction with novell road layouts at these locations	47,000
HA	Evaluation of "Think ahead, Move ahead" booklet	Faber Maunsell	Measure attitude towards booklet	14,000
Total				282,797

(C) Staff surveys

Division/ Agency	Survey/ opinion poll	(i) Firm	(ii) Purpose	(iii) Cost (£)
VOSA	Staff survey	ORC	Measure areas of organisational development	13,000
Total				13,000

Driving Tests: Standards

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of driving test applicants have been successful at their first attempt at *(a)* the driving theory test and *(b)* the practical test in each of the last three years. [166498]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The most recent data are as follows. The data for all test categories are included.

Practical driving test

	Number/percentage
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	
Total number of applicants	1,094,395
Those passing on first attempt	434,480
Proportion (percentage)	39.7
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	
Total number of applicants	1,151,138
Those passing on first attempt	388,281
Proportion (percentage)	33.7
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	
Total number of applicants	1,129,140
Those passing on first attempt	383,285
Proportion (percentage)	33.9

Theory driving test

	Number/percentage
1 September 2004 to 31 March 2005	
Total number of applicants	583,827
Those passing on first attempt	406,774
Proportion (percentage)	69.7
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	
Total number of applicants	1,095,643
Those passing on first attempt	797,517

Theory driving test

	Number/percentage
Proportion (percentage)	72.8
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	
Total number of applicants	1,109,366
Those passing on first attempt	776,366
Proportion (percentage)	70.0

Fuels: Prices

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the price of fuel is not always displayed on motorway service station signs that are visible from the motorway. [165606]

Mr. Tom Harris: The display of fuel prices, historically on the half-mile approach sign, is a voluntary practice on the part of the operators.

Some time ago several motorway service area operators ceased this practice, citing the high costs involved in keeping the information accurate by the constant alteration of signs, which is necessary in an environment of ever changing fuel prices, and the safety issues involved in accessing the signs.

Galileo

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what evaluation criteria have to be satisfied before the Galileo system may be judged successful; and what criteria have to be satisfied before the programme is expanded. [163457]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The main characteristics of Galileo were agreed by European Transport Ministers at their meeting on 9-10 December 2004. Full operational capability of the system will be achieved when the planned constellation of 30 satellites is in operation and the technical performance and stability of the system has met the mission and performance requirements.

Any decisions on the potential expansion of Galileo can only be taken once the system is operational and we expect these decisions to be taken on the basis of detailed technical, commercial, financial and programmatic studies.

Gospel Oak-Barking Railway Line

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with Network Rail and Transport for London on the possible electrification of the Barking to Gospel Oak line. [164899]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport received representations and a detailed business case from Transport for London in 2006 regarding a proposal to electrify the Gospel Oak to Barking route. The proposal sought departmental funding for the scheme.

The proposal was rejected by the Department because it was not considered that a robust case could be made for the scheme.

Highways Agency: Telephone Services

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue was received from the calls to the Highways Agency's *(a)* automated traffic information line and *(b)* enquiry line in each of the last five years; how many telephone calls were made to the (i) automated traffic information line and (ii) enquiry line in each year; what the average call time was to the (A) automated traffic information line and (B) enquiry line in each year; and how much was spent on (1) staffing costs, (2) call centre facilities and (3) consultancy fees on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency customer services telephone line in each year. [163223]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information is as follows:

Traffic England Telephone Service (Interactive Voice Recognition - IVR)

The Highways Agency's Traffic England IVR service is operated by Traffic information Services as part of a wider PFI contract for the National Traffic Control Centre. The Agency does not receive any revenue from this service.

The service commenced in March 2005. The average call time is not available.

Number of calls

	Number
2004-05	600
2005-06	45,852
2006-07	91,801

Highways Agency Information Line (HAIL)

The Highways Agency does not receive any revenue from this service.

Number of calls received

	Number
2002-03	66,737
2003-04	65,687
2004-05	75,079
2005-06	78,138
2006-07	110,477

Average call time

	Call time
2002 – 2005	n/a
2005-06	2 min 39 secs
2006-07	2 min 57 secs

n/a = Not available.

DVLA

Consultancy expenditure on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency customer services telephone line for the past five years is as follows:

	£
2002-03	0
2003-04	3,010
2004-05	3,495
2005-06	0
2006-07	7,895

Customer services staffing costs for the past five years are as follows:

	£
2002-03	8,550,598
2003-04	11,288,752
2004-05	11,990,204
2005-06	13,667,422
2006-07	15,465,682

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes she proposes to the system of clamping of untaxed vehicles; whether such changes will include untaxed vehicles parked on private land; what safeguards there will be to protect vehicles in the process of repair or restorations for road use; and if she will make a statement. [165603]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Chancellor announced in his pre-Budget report additional measures to assist in the fight against Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) evasion. VED enforcement powers are to be strengthened to include motorists driving unlicensed vehicles and parking in areas where enforcement is not currently permitted. Therefore in addition to public roads, from 1 September 2008, VED enforcement will extend to unlicensed vehicles in public places where a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) has not been made. Therefore, there will be no adverse effect of this change for the keepers of vehicles in the process of repair or restoration.

Level Crossings: Death

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have been killed on pedestrian rail level crossings in each of the last three years. [166333]

Mr. Tom Harris: Level crossings are categorised as vehicular or footpath crossings. The following table lists fatalities at footpath crossings. Suicides and trespassers are excluded. The figure for 2006 is provisional because coroners' inquests have yet to be concluded.

	Number
2004	2
2005	1
2006	4

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, *(b)* drivers' representative groups and *(c)* the motor industry on the possible deregulation of MOT fees. [164642]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Officials have had preliminary discussions about different options for setting MOT test fees with representatives of the MOT trade at industry liaison meetings. Other interested parties will have an opportunity to present their views on the idea of deregulating MOT fees and other options when the wider consultation on the MOT scheme is launched in the next few months.

Motorways

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to allow vehicles to use the hard shoulder of the M1 motorway; and on what stretches. [165604]

Mr. Tom Harris: Following the success of the trial of Active Traffic Management Techniques on the M42, including use of the hard shoulder, the Secretary of State announced on 25 October a study into the feasibility, costs and benefits of extending these and other advanced signalling and traffic management techniques more widely across the motorway network.

The Terms of Reference for the feasibility study were published to Parliament through a written ministerial statement on 25 October 2007. Decisions on where these techniques may be applied in the future will be taken after the study has reported.

Official Hospitality: Highways Agency

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what records the Highways Agency maintains of its expenditure on official hospitality; how the Agency accounts for that expenditure in each financial year; for what reason the Agency was not able to provide this information for the last 12 months without incurring disproportionate cost, with reference to the answer of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1299W, on Departments: official hospitality; and if she will ensure that the Agency maintains records in the future to enable it to provide figures for total expenditure on official hospitality. [162221]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Agency does record its expenditure on official hospitality relating to its administrative activity, for example provision of working lunches to external visitors to Highways Agency premises. The recorded Agency spend for the last financial year and this financial year to date is set out as follows:

Highways Agency spend on official hospitality (admin)

	£
2006-07	39,150
2007-08 to 31 October	24,996

However, most Highways Agency expenditure on hospitality is incurred as part of its programme activity, for example at road opening ceremonies, public exhibitions, etc. This is expenditure that can not be extracted from the rest of the Agency's spend on managing and operating the road network, without incurring disproportionate cost.

Public Transport: Disabled

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received on improving access to public transport for disabled people; and what estimate she has made of what

Government expenditure on concessionary bus passes for disabled people will be in 2007-08. [165599]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I receive correspondence from stakeholders and meet a range of these on a regular basis to discuss various issues around improving access to public transport for disabled people.

The Government set a statutory minimum bus concession for eligible disabled people, and those aged 60 or over. However concessionary fares schemes are administered by local authorities and they can vary at the local level to include more generous concessions. Funding for the statutory concession is provided by central Government to local authorities but there is no separately identified funding stream for the disabled element of the statutory concession.

Railways

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward proposals for new railway rolling stock prior to the end of 2007. [165930]

Mr. Tom Harris: As set out in the White Paper, the department will publish a Rolling Stock plan by January 2008 setting out in more detail how Rolling Stock will be used to deliver the increased capacity.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what definition her Department uses of an express railway. [166327]

Mr. Tom Harris: Railways such as the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, intended primarily or exclusively for use by high speed passenger trains, are normally referred to as high speed lines. I am not aware that the term "express railway" is in general use.

Roads: Finance

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the different levels of funding for highways in England and areas where responsibility for highway maintenance has been devolved. [166146]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport has made no assessment of the different levels of funding for highway maintenance in England and the devolved Administrations. Decisions on the levels of funding to be allocated to highway maintenance are for the administrations of each of the countries concerned, taking into account their overall priorities and objectives.

The Department does, through the UK Roads Liaison Group, have arrangements for sharing best practice advice with transport authorities in the devolved Administrations, including securing best value for the funding available.

Roads: Safety Measures

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what central Government funding was provided for road safety measures in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall and *(c)* England in each year since 1979; [166716]

(2) what central Government funding was provided for road safety awareness in schools in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall and *(c)* England in each year since 1979. [166717]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have provided specific road safety grants for road safety partnerships of £1.098 million for Cornwall and £107.795 million across England in 2007-08. The grants replaced a scheme, in operation from 2000-01 to 2006-07, for the local use of income generated by safety camera partnerships.

Since 2000-01, Central Government have provided capital funding support for local authorities to invest in road safety within the integrated transport block, which can be used for a wide range of investment in transport according to local authorities' policies and priorities. Typically local authorities spend about one fifth of their integrated transport block on road safety projects. Prior to 2000-01 funding specifically for investment in road safety was provided by central Government. The figures for Cornwall and England (excluding London from 2001-02) are shown in tables 1 and 2, as far back as 1991-92.

The funding is provided to the county council for the whole of its area and it is for the county council to determine distribution between local areas. Figures before 1991-92 cannot be made available except at a disproportionate cost.

Table 1: integrated transport block

	Cornwall	£ million England
2000-01	2.957	250
2001-02	5.496	543
2002-03	5.915	565
2003-04	5.820	612
2004-05	7.073	658
2005-06	8.299	553
2006-07	10.662	547
2007-08	10.114	571

Table 2: funding for local safety schemes

	Cornwall	£ million England
1991-92	0.250	31
1992-93	0.390	43
1993-94	0.390	50
1994-95	0.369	50
1995-96	0.590	50
1996-97	0.609	55
1997-98	0.575	60
1998-99	0.494	50
1999/2000	0.922	60

In addition local authorities receive revenue support for road safety services via formula grants such as revenue support grant, which they may use at their discretion on initiatives such as the promotion of road safety awareness, education or publicity in schools. The Department for Transport also supplies publicity and education materials to local authorities and schools on request, free of charge.

The Government have also provided some smaller grants to local authorities, for example for road safety demonstration projects, although none in Cornwall.

The Government directly fund road safety measures on trunk roads, although this funding cannot be disaggregated to county level.

WALES

Housing

11. **Mrs. Betty Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on available and affordable housing in Wales. [164987]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues in the Welsh Assembly Government, including on housing issues.

Domestic and Work-place Abuse

12. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what meetings he has had with Ministers in *(a)* the Welsh Assembly Government and *(b)* the UK Government to discuss domestic abuse and abuse in the workplace. [164988]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend and I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues in the Welsh Assembly Government and the UK Government, on a wide range of subjects, including domestic abuse and abuse in the workplace.

Economy: North-east Wales

13. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement on the contribution of North East Wales to the UK economy. [164989]

Huw Irranca-Davies: North-east Wales has the fastest growing economic area in the UK. It has seen faster growth in the economy than south-east England over the past 20 years

Comprehensive Spending Review

14. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on the Comprehensive Spending Review settlements for the Welsh Assembly Government and Wales Office. [165102]

Mr. Hain: I had constructive discussions with the Chief Secretary during the Comprehensive Spending Review process, which delivered a positive package for Wales giving both the Welsh Assembly Government and the Wales Office the resources to deliver on policy priorities.

Tidal Energy

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the development of electricity generated from tidal energy in Wales. [164985]

Mr. Hain: I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend. I look forward to meeting him, and other ministerial colleagues, to discuss the exciting proposals for a Severn barrage.

Defence Training Programme: RAF St. Athan

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Ministry of Defence over the time taken to implement the defence training programme at RAF St. Athan. [164986]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Secretary of State and I have regular discussions on a range of defence issues.

I welcome the progress made so far on delivering an excellent package that meets our defence training needs. Work is expected to begin at St. Athan as early as 2009.

Departmental Correspondence

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of inquiries received by his Department from the public were responded to within *(a)* one week, *(b)* 14 days, *(c)* 28 days, *(d)* two months and *(e)* three months in the last period for which figures are available; and in what percentage of cases it took (i) over three months and (ii) over one year to respond. [167376]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not record information in this format, this could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Performance information can be found in the Wales Office 2007 Annual Report.

http://www.walesoffice.gov.uk/2007/AnnualReport2007.pdf

Departmental Flexible Working

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours (i) in the Department and (ii) the executive agencies for which the Department is responsible. [164328]

Mr. Hain: The vast majority of Wales Office staff work on a flexi-time basis, and do not have to apply to work on this basis. Furthermore, several staff work on a compressed hours or part-time basis.

The Wales Office does not have any executive agencies.

Departmental Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in his departmental headquarters were imported products in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166645]

Mr. Hain: None.

The Wales Office does not have catering facilities.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the office costs for his Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [166918]

Mr. Hain: Salary details for the Wales Office's special advisers were published in my answer of Monday, 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 451W.

Other office costs are not available by individual staff member, and obtaining this information could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Wales Office special advisers do not have any support staff, and no civil servants work in support of them.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what entertainment or hospitality members of his Department's management board have received in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [164737]

Mr. Hain: Nil.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of the increase in the Wales Office budget is intended to meet *(a)* administrative costs arising from the new arrangements for liaising with the Welsh Assembly Government to draft legislation relevant to Wales and *(b)* refurbishment of Gwydyr House in Whitehall. [166332]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office's settlement provides £18.8 million over three years, which amounts to just over £6 million per year to meet the increased demands on the Office. This is around £1 million a year more than the expected out-turn for 2007-08.

It is not possible to detail precisely what proportion of this relates to liaison with the Welsh Assembly Government on legislation. The settlement does not include any planned expenditure on the possible refurbishment of Gwydyr House.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department and its agencies spent on managing their corporate identities in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167338]

Mr. Hain: Nil.

Departmental Repairs and Maintenance

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been spent by his Department on renovation and refurbishment of its properties in each of the last five years. [164376]

Mr. Hain: In the last five years the Wales Office has not undertaken any renovation or refurbishment projects, only necessary maintenance and office upkeep as a result of recommendations from external accommodation reports.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of expenditure on renovation and refurbishment of his Department's properties in the next 12 months. [164380]

Mr. Hain: None. There are no plans for the Wales Office to undertake any renovation or refurbishment in the next 12 months.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he expects to publish his Department's autumn performance report. [164384]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not publish an autumn performance report.

My Department publishes a Departmental Annual Report each year, as per HM Treasury timetable. The 2008 report will be published around May 2008.

Opinion Leader Research

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many contracts were awarded by his Department to Opinion Leader Research in each year since 1997; and what was *(a)* the title and purpose, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates of (i) tender, (ii) award, (iii) operation and (iv) completion and report to the Department in each case. [165264]

Mr. Hain: None.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he had with ministerial colleagues in HM Treasury on the Comprehensive Spending Review settlements for the *(a)* Welsh Assembly Government and *(b)* Wales Office. [165215]

Mr. Hain: I had constructive discussions with the chief secretary during the Comprehensive Spending Review process, which delivered a positive package for Wales giving both the Welsh Assembly Government and the Wales Office the resources to deliver on policy priorities.

Remploy

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with Remploy on the future of its factories in Wales. [164979]

Mr. Hain: I have regular discussions with Remploy on its modernisation proposals.

We received the company's final modernisation proposals on 12 November.

Fewer factories are proposed for closure than in the company's original plan. The plants in Aberdare, Bridgend, Abertillery and Wrexham are now proposed to remain open while Brynamman and Ystradgynlais plants remain proposed to merge at new site in Neath.

I am currently considering the company's proposals, and I will make a statement to the House in due course. As I pledged in September, there will be no factory closures without ministerial agreement.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what support is available for *(a)* Peterborough City Council and *(b)* other local authorities in Cambridgeshire to develop their strategies and policies in relation to the hosting of the London 2012 Olympics. [163177]

Tessa Jowell: The Local Government Association is supporting local authorities across the UK in the lead up to the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. In addition the Nations and Regions Group, chaired by Charles Allen, coordinates legacy benefits planning across the UK, including in the East of England.

The East of England regional structure has also been reorganised to support the 2012 regional business plan more effectively. The Nations and Regions East (NRE) board has representation from each of the six county areas, which includes councils and the four unitary authorities. NRE is chaired by Cllr Stephen Castle, who is the regional representative on the Nations and Regions Group. Below the Nations and Regions East board is a partnership executive group which includes representation from Peterborough city council and Cambridge county council. Its role is to provide additional support to county level working groups to take forward relevant and appropriate activity to maximise the benefits from 2012.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Administration

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the total value of the House of Commons Administration Estimate was in each year since 1978. [165089]

Nick Harvey: Only cash-based figures are available for the years prior to 2001-02. Unlike resource-based figures, these are not comparable over the period. The cash figures are as follows:

	£000
1978-79	17,480
1979-80	10,737
1980-81	12,139
1981-82	13,827
1982-83	15,087
1983-84	15,480
1984-85	17,143
1985-86	20,705
1986-87	21,087
1987-88	23,046
1988-89	25,657
1989-90	29,521
1990-91	33,884
1991-92	40,191
1992-93	61,556
1993-94	64,702
1994-95	64,856
1995-96	68,190
1996-97	68,290
1997-98	72,879
1998-99	81,150
1999-2000	81,649
2000-01	159,997
2001-02	132,508
2002-03	138,328
2003-04	140,160
2004-05	143,661
2005-06	148,888
2006-07	157,158

For the years 1992-93 to 1999-2000, the Works expenditure programme was covered by a separate Vote. This period included significant cash expenditure on projects such as the construction of Portcullis House. The figures shown cover the Administration Vote only for those years.

The net resource outturn figures from 2001-02 are as follows:

	Resource outturn (£000)
2001-02	165,426
2002-03	180,006
2003-04	178,217
2004-05	189,881
2005-06	320,559
2006-07	210,608

Information Services: Expenditure

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the total expenditure on Library services was in each year since 1978. [165086]

Nick Harvey: Only cash-based figures are available for the years prior to 2001-02. These are less comparable than resource-based figures over the period. The cash figures are as follows:

	£000
1978-79	604
1979-80	931
1980-81	1,267
1981-82	1,457
1982-83	1,589
1983-84	1,757
1984-85	1,852
1985-86	2,064
1986-87	2,334
1987-88	2,459
1988-89	2,739
1989-90	3,216
1990-91	3,750
1991-92	4,363
1992-93	7,022
1993-94	7,820
1994-95	7,094
1995-96	6,542
1996-97	7,275

	£000
1997-98	7,305
1998-99	8,257
1999-2000	7,885
2000-01	8,313
2001-02	[1]8,535
2002-03	[1]8,770
2003-04	[1]9,955
2004-05	[1]—
2005-06	[1]—
2006-07	[1]—

[1] Figures prior to 2001-02 are taken from the Appropriation Accounts. Those shown for 2001-02 to 2003-04 are cash equivalent figures shown in the House of Commons Commission Annual Report. The Resource Accounts and Commission Annual Report do not give separate cash figures for 2004-05 onwards.

The total resource expenditure on Library services from 2003, following a change of accounting system, are as follows:

	Resource outturn (£000)
2003-04	9,748
2004-05	8,349
2005-06	9,010
2006-07	10,185

Political Activities: Stationery

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the Commission's definition is of campaigning with regards to the prohibition of the use of House stationery for campaigning. [164174]

Nick Harvey: The House approved on 28 March 2007 a new Communications Allowance as set out in the First Report from the Members Estimate Committee 2006-07 HC 319. At the same time, a limit of £7,000 was placed on the amount of House stationery which could be used by each Member in one year. Detailed rules for both the Communications Allowance and the use of House stationery, approved by the Members Estimate Committee, were published at the time (The Communications Allowance and the use of House stationery, April 2007). The Committee undertook to review the detailed rules in the light of experience. The Committee on Standards and Privileges has recently reported on a number of cases arising from use of the Communications Allowance. The Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards has said that he intends to submit a further report to that Committee on some general issues relating to publications funded from the allowance. The Commission and the Members Estimate Committee will await the Committee's conclusions on this before deciding on a review.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Angling

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the contribution that angling makes to the economy; and if he will make a statement; [165510]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely change in size of the angling sector over the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [165511]

Jonathan Shaw: I recognise the value of recreational sea angling (RSA) and the important contribution it makes to the economy.

DEFRA's report "Research into the Economic Contribution of Sea Angling", published in July 2004, estimated that the total expenditure on their sport by anglers residing in England and Wales was £538 million a year.

The same report estimated that 1.1 million households in England and Wales contained at least one family member who had been sea angling in 2003. Since the early 1990s, the number of sea anglers had stabilised and possibly increased. Although not quantified, the report suggests that we could see a stable or possibly increasing demand for sea angling in future, with the sector's prospects depending mainly on demand, fish stocks and facilities. These factors are considered in a draft RSA Strategy, which we will shortly consult on.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish his draft recreational sea angling strategy for consultation; and if he will make a statement. [165512]

Jonathan Shaw: A draft Recreational Sea Angling Strategy has been developed collaboratively with key stakeholders in inshore fisheries and contains a broad package of measures. On 25 October I announced that I would launch a consultation on the draft Strategy in November this year.

Beaches: EU Law

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to the Environment Agency of implementing the revised Bathing Water Directive; and what additional funds have been allocated to allow them to do so. [165953]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government have recently launched a public consultation, including a partial impact assessment which sets out the costs and benefits associated with the implementation of the revised Bathing Water Directive in England and Wales. The impact assessment suggests that there will be some relatively small additional costs incurred by the Environment Agency from the implementation of the revised Directive (over and above its on-going costs under the current Bathing Water Directive), but that these are likely to be off-set by the savings it may incur as a result of the simplification provisions included in the revised Directive.

Birds: Conservation

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the UK Bird Registration Scheme under section 7 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in facilitating the enforcement of

(a) the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora and *(b)* other wildlife laws by police. [165501]

Joan Ruddock: The Animal Health Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service enforcement section is not aware of any cases within the past five years where information solely available from BIRDLOG (the database system used for bird registration) has been critical in obtaining successful convictions of CITES or other wildlife laws enforced by the police. It is however aware of numerous instances where information from BIRDLOG has been released to the police to assist in the investigation of registration offences, but these rarely result in the keeper being taken to court.

Bluetongue Disease: Compensation

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other aid is planned to be made available to farmers who have had livestock infected with bluetongue disease; what elements of that aid will be funded by the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [164358]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* For bluetongue, compensation will be paid for all animals which are compulsorily slaughtered (at market value immediately before it was slaughtered) and disposal costs will also be paid for. No financial aid packages for bluetongue are proposed.

We are developing our response to bluetongue in line with the UK bluetongue control strategy. We aim to relieve the economic and welfare problems facing the industry by allowing movement of animals in areas of Great Britain based on a risk assessment. We are working in close partnership with farmers and the devolved administrations in order to achieve this.

Dolphins

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking in international organisations to protect dolphins; and if he will make a statement. [163851]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK Government works actively through several international organisations to further the protection offered to dolphins and other cetaceans. These include the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS), the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (the "OSPAR Convention") and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

The UK Government have implemented a comprehensive system of by-catch monitoring under the requirements of the EC Habitats Directive and Council Regulation 812/2004. In 2003, the UK was the first member state to publish a response strategy for the monitoring of small cetaceans by-catch. In December 2004, the UK banned pelagic pair trawling for bass by UK vessels within 12 miles off the south-west coast of England. The Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) regularly reports the results of its research on by-catch monitoring which covers all relevant UK fishery sectors, including the bass pair trawl fishery to the Department, and has recently presented us with their 2006 findings. This report will be submitted to the European Commission and published on DEFRA's website in due course. The Commission evaluate all contributing member states' schemes.

The UK Government have identified the potential benefits of acoustic devices, such as pingers, in reducing bycatch of dolphins and other cetaceans in fixed gear fisheries and argued successfully at an international level for these devices to be required in certain fisheries by EU legislation. Prior to enforcing the use of pingers under Council Regulation EC 8121 2004, the UK Government wants to ensure that those we recommend to be used are safe and cost effective for the industry and offer the maximum protection to porpoises.

We have also provided significant funding for collaborative working with other countries to collect information on the distribution and abundance of cetaceans in European Atlantic offshore waters. Other countries participating in this research study are France, Ireland and Spain. The outputs from this work will provide new information on the distribution, abundance and habitat preferences of a number of cetaceans, which include the bottlenose dolphin and common dolphin. This information will be used to assess the threats to dolphins and inform what mitigation measures may be required.

All dolphins are listed in either Appendix I or II of CITES. Under CITES, commercial trade in wild-taken Appendix I dolphins is only allowed in exceptional circumstances. Appendix II dolphin species are not necessarily threatened with extinction, but may become so unless trade is regulated. The UK supports the listing of dolphins on the appropriate Appendix and, in 2004, supported the up-listing of the Irrawaddy dolphin from Appendix II to I. Under CITES, countries manage trade in listed species to ensure that their conservation is not threatened by trade. Under that management regime, the UK (and EU) takes strict measures in respect of trade, and keeping in captivity, of all dolphins. Trade in wild-taken dolphins would only be allowed in exceptional circumstances, for example scientific, breeding, or educational purposes (where these would bring conservation benefits to the species concerned). Commercial trade in the EU in these species is strictly prohibited. The UK encourages other countries to adopt similar standards.

European Fisheries Fund

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he next plans to meet his counterparts in the devolved administrations to discuss budgetary arrangements for the European Fisheries Fund; and if he will make a statement. [165508]

Jonathan Shaw: At present, I have no plans to meet my counterparts in the devolved administrations to discuss budgetary arrangements for the European Fisheries Fund. However, there has been regular

contact at both ministerial and official level and, following recent correspondence, I am working with my ministerial counterparts to agree a proposal regarding the split of the UK convergence budget, which represents a compromise for all administrations. The four fisheries administrations are mindful that continued lack of agreement is clearly not in the best interests of the UK fishing industry. However, I hope that agreement will be reached in the next few days.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how he plans to allocate the European Fisheries Fund between the fisheries sectors; and if he will make a statement; [165518]

(2) how much of the European Fisheries Fund he plans to allocate to the fishing industry for more sustainable gears; and if he will make a statement; [165519]

(3) what proportion of the European Fisheries Fund he plans to allocate to the aquaculture sector; and if he will make a statement. [165520]

Jonathan Shaw: The European Fisheries Fund (EFF) identifies a number of priority axes for the allocation of funds:

Axis 1: Measures for the adaptation of the Community fishing fleet.

Axis 2: Aquaculture, inland fishing, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products.

Axis 3: Measures of common interest.

Axis 4: Sustainable development of fisheries areas.

Axis 5: Technical Assistance.

This means that funds are not allocated to specific fisheries sectors.

The answer I gave on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 779-80W, on fisheries subsidies indicated the provisional classification of these priority axes for England.

Axis 1 of the EFF covers funding for more sustainable gears. We are proposing to allocate approximately 15 per cent. of England's EFF budget for Axis 1 measures. Axis 2 covers aquaculture, and we are proposing to allocate approximately 15 per cent. of England's EFF budget for Axis 2 measures.

The prioritisation of EFF funds will be finalised in the light of responses to the consultation on the Operational Programme, which will be launched in the new year.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under what circumstances the European Commission may penalise the UK in relation to the European Fisheries Fund; and if he will make a statement. [165521]

Jonathan Shaw: In the event that Operational Programmes are not approved by the Commission by the end of 2007, the Commission could, in principle:

(a) propose to the European Council and Parliament that funds be transferred to later years of the Programme; or

(b) propose a cut in the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) budget, in effect reducing a member state's budget.

These provisions are set out in the Inter-Institutional Agreement (IIA) between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission of 17 May 2007, on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure.

The UK is one of six member states yet to submit an Operational Programme (OP) to the Commission for approval. Until the OP has been approved, the UK cannot spend EFF funds and spending will therefore not match the Commission's projections. The Commission may therefore choose to invoke one of the above provisions. I will be seeking the agreement of the Commission to choose the first of these two options and my officials are working with those from devolved administrations to submit a draft OP to the Commission by the end of the year.

Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the proposals in the Marine Bill White Paper to introduce protected marine areas in UK waters will apply to foreign vessels with historic rights within the 12 nautical mile limit; and if he will make a statement. [165475]

Jonathan Shaw: The Marine Bill White Paper proposes a network of new marine conservation zones with clear conservation objectives. Should it be necessary to restrict fishing activity in order to achieve the objectives set for any site within six nautical miles of the coast, the relevant authority could introduce appropriate measures. In respect of sites located between six and 12 nautical miles from the coast (in which other EU member states have historic fishing rights) the Secretary of State would seek the agreement of the European Fisheries Council to the introduction of measures through the common fisheries policy. If such agreement were forthcoming, measures to restrict fishing activity on the site would apply to all vessels, regardless of origin.

Fisheries: Protection

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the relative effectiveness and efficiency of *(a)* Hunt Class and *(b)* River Class patrol vessels in performance of fishery protection duties as referred to in the answer of 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 945-6W, on fisheries: protection; and if he will make a statement. [163373]

Jonathan Shaw: The three River class vessels which replaced the six Island class vessels in 2003-04, were leased by MOD to provide the majority of Fishery Protection duties for DEFRA. The Rivers, like the Island class before, are contracted to provide 70 per cent. of the total annual patrol day requirement. The Rivers provide on average 190 to 230 patrol days each year. Their design, their equipment and their crewing is geared to provide a first class fisheries enforcement service in UK and International waters at anytime of the year.

The Hunt class vessels that are seconded to the Fishery Protection Squadron for 2 to 3 year periods, are Mine Countermeasure vessels which were designed for that primary role. There have always been three to

five Hunts in the Fishery Protection Squadron at any one time, but they have always acted in a supporting role to the Islands and Rivers within the Fishery Protection Squadron. Most of the Hunts provide on average, 50-100 patrol days each year and consequently spend long periods of the year not on fisheries enforcement duties.

The River class vessels, built in the last five years, are much faster vessels than the older Hunts (18yrs plus), with a maximum speed of 22knts compared to a maximum of 15knts on the Hunts and they are able to stay at sea for longer periods. Rivers currently carry out 12 day patrols followed by a two day stand-off whereas the Hunts carry out seven to eight day patrols followed by a two day stand-off.

The River class vessels are equipped and manned to be able to routinely deploy two sea-boats to carry out simultaneous inspections whereas the Hunts are equipped to use one sea-boat. They do exceptionally use two sea-boats if weather and crewing permit.

Rivers have a higher complement of qualified British Sea Fisheries Officers (BSFOs), carrying an average of four at all times whereas the Hunts carry an average of three qualified BSFOs.

Fisheries: Quotas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish proposals for consultation on fishing quota management reform by the end of 2007; and if he will make a statement. [165473]

Jonathan Shaw: In the light of the Net Benefits report by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit published in March 2004, DEFRA and the devolved fisheries administrations embarked in May 2005 on a programme of reform of the UK's quota management arrangements: the Quota Management Change Programme (QMCP).

We planned to consult on the findings of the QMCP this autumn and were in a position to do so. However, in June 2007, the Scottish Executive announced that it was withdrawing from the QMCP while it considered what quota management arrangements would be best for Scotland. The Scottish Executive has recently indicated that it wants quota management and licensing arrangements in Scotland to be separate from the rest of the UK. This would represent a significant change in UK fisheries management.

While I am prepared to consider this constructively, the Scottish Executive has yet to provide details of its proposals and I have, so far, seen no evidence that separate arrangements would be of benefit to the fishing industry. I have asked my officials to work with the industry and officials in the devolved administrations to examine the issues that separation raises.

The case for other potential reforms of the quota management arrangements, flowing from the work conducted under the QMCP, will also be considered. Any proposed changes to the quota and licensing systems will be subject to consultation with the industry. Until further work has been completed on the Scottish Executive proposals, it is not possible to say when this consultation might take place.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 526W on fishery: quotas, for what reason no estimate was made of the value of the quota being swapped; and if he will make a statement. [165481]

Jonathan Shaw: It is not feasible to undertake an economic analysis of the value of quota involved in every swap undertaken. The cost involved would be prohibitive and the time it would take could jeopardise the chance of completing swaps in many cases. In the case referred to, a judgment was made that, on balance, the quota being swapped in was to the greater benefit of the overall inshore fleet than the quota swapped out. The relative monetary value of quota gained and lost is one element taken into account when considering a swap. The primary concern however is to ensure, on balance, the greatest benefit to the UK industry and/or inshore fleet as a whole.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether it is departmental policy to make estimates of the economic value of quota being swapped when a swap takes place; and if he will make a statement. [165482]

Jonathan Shaw: Decisions on day to day quota management, including the negotiation of quota swaps, rests with the Marine and Fisheries Agency. The monetary value of fish being swapped in or out is one aspect taken into account when quota swaps are undertaken. This is normally based on the lease value of the fish involved. The primary concern however is a judgment of the wider socio-economic value of the swap under consideration. The objective is to ensure that a swap provides the greatest benefit to the wider UK industry and/or the inshore fleet as a whole. This process can involve a consideration of the shortage of stocks being swapped in or out, the effects on a particular sector of the fleet or impacts on a community or communities.

Fly Tipping

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to provide support for landowners with the costs of *(a)* clearance and *(b)* prevention of fly-tipping on their land. [165302]

Joan Ruddock: The Waste Strategy for England, published in May 2007, includes the Government's Illegal Waste Activity Action Plan, which sets out action proposed and being taken in this area. This includes working with stakeholders to consider how the Flycapture database can be enhanced or improved to enable local authorities to better use data to take action against fly-tipping. This may include extending the scope of the database on a voluntary basis to landowners.

Neither the local authority nor the Environment Agency is under any legal obligation to assist the removal of waste on private land. However, some local authorities are ready to work with landowners to investigate and prosecute repeated incidents of fly-tipping and to tackle specific problems or issues. The

Government believe that to place a duty on authorities to remove waste from private land would encourage illegal dumping rather than tackle the problem.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 gave courts the power to make an order against anyone convicted of the main offence of illegal waste disposal to pay for costs incurred by a landowner in removing waste that has been illegally deposited.

In addition, the Environment Agency's National Fly-tipping Prevention Group identifies better ways of preventing and tackling fly-tipping on private land by working closely with organisations like the National Farmers Union, the Country Land and Business Association, Network Rail and the National Trust, and has issued guidance to landowners on how to deal with this problem.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to ensure that incidents of fly-tipping on private land are recorded on the Flycapture database. [165303]

Joan Ruddock: The Flycapture database currently only records incidents dealt with by local authorities and the Environment Agency. It does not include fly-tipping that is dealt with by private landowners.

The Government are considering how to get a better picture of the problem of fly-tipping on private land. This includes the possibility of landowners reporting data to Flycapture on a voluntary basis.

DEFRA also attends the Environment Agency's National Fly-tipping Prevention Group, which identifies better ways of preventing and tackling fly-tipping on private land and has issued guidance to landowners on how to deal with this problem.

Game: Birds

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect on (i) wildlife and (ii) the rural environment of lead shot left in the countryside by the gamebird shooting industry; [165432]

(2) what estimate he has made is of the amount of lead shot which was left in the countryside by the gamebird shooting industry in 2006. [165433]

Joan Ruddock: The use of lead shot to shoot ducks, geese or swans over certain Sites of Special Scientific Interest where lead shot is deemed to be a risk to waterfowl, is prohibited.

Outside these areas, the use of lead shot is not prohibited for shooting gamebirds or other species and my Department has not commissioned any research on lead shot residues in the countryside, making it impossible to provide an estimate of the amount of lead shot left by the game bird industry.

Wildlife may, in certain circumstances, be at risk from lead shot when scavenging on other species killed by lead shot. Research involving Natural England and other organisations has shown that for red kites in England, exposure to this type of poisoning appears to be sufficient to be fatal in some cases, although this has not prevented the reintroduced red kite populations from increasing rapidly.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to include in the advertising for warm front vouchers the amount of each voucher which will be spent on administration fees. [165929]

Mr. Woolas: As administration fees are not charged to the householder benefiting from the voucher, the Secretary of State has no current plans to publicise the fee in warm front advertising.

Marine Bill: Draft

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if his Department will publish a timetable for the proposed passage of the draft Marine Bill through parliamentary scrutiny. [166160]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government are committed to publishing a draft Marine Bill as part of the legislative programme in this 2007-08 session of Parliament. We expect this will be in the spring of 2008. The timetable for the introduction of a Marine Bill to, and passage through, Parliament will be subject to the outcome of public scrutiny of the draft Bill and the availability of parliamentary time

Nitrates: EU Law

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the effect on costs of dairy farmers of the operation of the Nitrates directive. [165963]

Mr. Woolas: The partial regulatory impact assessment and supporting paper "G4-Assistance in the partial RIA including extended Nitrate Vulnerable Zones" provide details of my Department's assessment of the likely impact on farming in England of the proposed Nitrates Action programme measures.

These assessments estimate the likely cost to the dairy sector of implementing the proposed Nitrates Action programme as approximately £32.5 million-£42.1 million per year assuming that the Action programme is applied within Nitrate Vulnerable Zones covering 70 per cent. of England. Costs would be higher if the decision was taken to apply the Action programme to the whole of England. These costs would be reduced if my Department was successful in obtaining a derogation from the 170kgN/ha/yr whole farm limit for livestock manures, one of the more burdensome requirements of the proposals.

Opium: Crops

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the level of opium poppy production for medicinal use was in the UK in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [168359]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Opium poppy production for medicinal use in the UK for the years requested is shown in the table as follows.

Most of this material is imported under licence in the form of concentrate of poppy straw from Australia, Turkey and Spain. Since 2001, the UK manufacturer of opium poppy based medicines has grown a small proportion of its total requirement of poppy material domestically in order to spread the sourcing risk.

	Area (ha)
2001	[1]21.50
2002	463.53
2003	1,533.75
2004	2,05 1.63
2005	1,659.56
2006	774.06
2007	2,744.98

[1] research only

Packaging

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of British companies had a turnover of less than £2 million and produced less than 50 tonnes of packaging a year in the latest period for which figures are available. [164447]

Joan Ruddock: Less than 1 per cent. of companies have a turnover of more than £2 million and produce more than 50 tonnes of packaging. This is the threshold at which they must be registered in accordance with the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007.

In 2006, 10.4 million tonnes of packaging waste entered the UK waste stream. Companies obligated under the Regulations accounted for 8.9 million tonnes (86 per cent.) of this packaging.

Rabbits

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on research on *(a)* rabbits and *(b)* squirrels in each of the last five years. [165502]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA has spent a total of £827,000 over the last five years on research into wild rabbits. The amounts (in £000) by year are shown in the following table:

	£000
2002-03	261
2003-04	373
2004-05	108
2005-06	66
2006-07	19
2007-08	0

DEFRA has not funded any research on grey squirrels over the last five years. However, the Forestry Commission contributed £20,000 a year in 2006-07 and 2007-08 to a DEFRA project on fertility control in wildlife.

Waste Management: Licensing

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to ensure that relevant businesses are aware of the legal requirement to carry a waste carrier licence. [165296]

Joan Ruddock: There is no present legal requirement for businesses to carry or display their waste carrier registration certificate. Businesses that carry waste with a view to profit, with certain specified exceptions, are required to be registered as such with the Environment Agency. Proof of registration can be required by a local authority or the Environment Agency. Waste carriers are allowed seven days to produce this information.

The waste carrier registration and waste duty of care regimes, including existing regulations and related guidance, are currently being reviewed with a view to simplifying and modernising the requirements. The review was set up in response to concerns from key stakeholders that the existing system was not effectively ensuring the safe and legal handling of waste. The Environment Agency has also found that levels of awareness, especially among small businesses is very low.

An initial consultation on proposed changes closed on 6 March 2007. A summary of responses was published in July 2007 which will help to inform a second consultation, planned for the early part of 2008. A communications strategy is currently being formulated to raise awareness of the new regimes among a number of different sectors. We have commissioned Environmental Campaigns (ENCAMS) to carry out research into the attitudes of small businesses in order to understand what methods of awareness-raising would work on this hard-to-reach audience. Results should be available at the end of 2007.

In terms of awareness, the Environment Agency is promoting waste carrier registration through its Business Resource Efficiency and Waste crime programme and NetRegs. NetRegs is a partnership between the UK environmental regulators—the Environment Agency in England and Wales, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Environment and Heritage Service in Northern Ireland. Netregs produces guidance by business type for 105 industries and guidance by environmental topic. NetRegs' main target audience are small and medium sized enterprises and unregulated businesses considered most likely to damage the environment, in particular construction, agriculture and manufacturing.

White Fish

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he expects to complete his review of bass nursery areas; and if he will make a statement; [165513]

(2) whether he plans to introduce inshore netting restrictions to improve bass stocks; and if he will make a statement. [165514]

Jonathan Shaw: Scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in 2004 suggested that the bass stock is fished sustainably. On 25 October I announced a review of bass nursery areas and inshore netting restrictions. The next step will be to engage stakeholders on how and when to take this work forward collaboratively during 2008. Details of my announcement are set out in the autumn 2007 edition of Fishing Focus, available in the Library of the House.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings have been held since July 2007 involving *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department with representatives of the Jewish community to discuss (i) anti-semitism in England, (ii) security of the Jewish community in England and (iii) measures to tackle anti-semitism; what the (A) location and (B) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; who attended each meeting; and if she will make a statement. [165733]

Mr. Dhanda: I met representatives of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Jewish Leadership Council and Community Security Trust. Issues concerning the Jewish community were discussed, as well as the All Party Inquiry follow up and security matters affecting the Jewish community.

I also met with Lord Janner in October 2007 and all three matters were raised.

Both meetings took place at CLG's offices and lasted approximately 30 minutes. The first meeting included CPU officials, representatives from all three organisations and myself. The second meeting was between Lord Janner and myself.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will carry out regular assessments of the level of anti-semitism in England; what recent representations she has received on the issue; and if she will make a statement. [165734]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not carry out assessments on the level of antisemitism in the UK. Hate crime of this nature is a matter the police take seriously. There is good cooperation between the Community Safety Trust and police forces in areas with a significant Jewish community.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps have been taken on measures to tackle anti-semitism; and if she will make a statement. [165735]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government are taking forward the recommendations made by the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into anti-semitism. CLG is also providing £20,000 to The Parliamentary Committee Against Antisemitism to take the form of inquiry (cross-party) to other countries. CLG is also providing £20,000 towards researching the impact of antisemitic discourse on the general atmosphere of 'acceptance' of antisemitism. CLG have also facilitated meetings between the All Party Inquiry and officials working on tension monitoring and the Citizenship Survey.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition her Department uses of Jewish stakeholders; whom she consulted on this definition; what representations she has received on this definition; and if she will make a statement. [165744]

Mr. Dhanda: In common with other communities, Jewish stakeholders are those organisations and individuals who have an identified interest and/or contribution to make on a particular issue. This is determined on a case by case basis. No representations on this definition have been received.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the membership of the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism is; on how many occasions the group has met; which *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* others have attended; what the (i) location and (ii) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; and if she will make a statement. [165743]

Mr. Dhanda: The cross-government working group on anti-Semitism is made up of officials from Communities and Local Government, the Home Office, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Crown Prosecution Service, Ministry of Justice, Attorney-General's Office, Department for Culture, Media and Sport as well as representatives from the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Metropolitan police, the Parliamentary Committee Against Anti-Semitism, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Jewish Leadership Council and the Community Security Trust. The group has met twice, no Ministers have attended the meetings only officials and representatives from the departments and other organisations mentioned above. The working group met at Community and Local Government offices, meetings lasted 90 minutes and a record is kept.

Arm's Length Management Organisations

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have applied for places on the Round 5 and 6 Arms-Length Management Organisation (ALMO) programmes; how much funding each has applied for; which of them have been granted places on the programme and for how much funding in each case; which of them have set up ALMOs; which ALMOs have been inspected; what the result of each inspection was; which have been allocated funding following the inspection; and how much has been allocated in each case. [162011]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table sets out the local authorities who have applied for places on Rounds 5 and 6 of the ALMO programme. All Round 5 bidders have been accepted onto the programme, although a decision has yet to be reached on those who

submitted applications under Round 6. The table sets out the funding each ALMO has bid for and how much has been allocated, up to 2007-08, to those round five bidders who have been successful at inspection.

Round 5	*Funding applied for (£)*	*Inspection outcome*	*Funding allocated to 2007-08 (£)*
Doncaster	234,476,000	*2	50,300,000
Gloucester	40,174,000	*2	12,065,000
Hackney	225,339,000	1	—
Lambeth (United Residents Housing)	31,593,000	—	—
Newham	240,452,000	*2	78,113,000
Stockport	103,967,000	*3	40,360,000
South Tyneside	166,699,000	*1	—
Southend	57,798,000	*0	
Wear Valley	26,997,000	*2	5,000,000
Round 6 Bidders			
Haringey	219,364,000	*2	—
Basildon	142,879,000	—	—
Blackpool	75,637,000	—	—
Charnwood	35,853,000	—	—
Enfield	140,000,000	—	—
Havering	127,898,000	—	—
Lambeth (Lambeth Living)	233,773,000	—	—
Lewisham	145,100,000	—	—
NE Derbyshire	64,638,000	—	—
Redbridge	35,995,000	—	—
Salford	68,792,000	—	—
Sedgemoor	39,961 ,000	—	—
Stevenage	55,050,000	—	—
Sutton	137,486,000	—	—
Tower Hamlets	192,188,000	—	—

Arm's Length Management Organisations: Standards

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when each local authority with arms-length management organisations (ALMOs) expects to meet the decent homes standard; and when each expected to meet the standard when the ALMO was established. [162012]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table sets out when each ALMO met the standard or now expects to meet the standard. Since being established a number of ALMOs have not made the progress that they expected and consequently will not now meet the decent homes standard by 2010. For those organisations yet to pass inspection—a pre-determined milestone to be achieved before investment can be spent—a date cannot be confirmed until inspection has been passed. We are now negotiating individual time scales to allow those ALMOs to deliver decent homes beyond 2010 where they are starting late on the programme, or where additional time is needed to deliver investment programmes that ensure value for money, deliver mixed communities and the right balance of refurbishment and new build.

Authority with arm's length management organisation	*Date met standard or expecting to meet standard*
Rounds 1-5 ALMOs with investment programmes	
Ashfield	2005-06
Derby	2005-06
Brent	2006-07
Westminster	2006-07
Blyth Valley	2006-07
Bolton	2007-08
Hillingdon	2007-08
Colchester	2007-08
Oldham	2007-08
Warrington	2007-08
Kirklees	2008-09
Leeds—South	2008-09
Carrick	2008-09
Cheltenham	2008-09
Kensington and Chelsea	2008-09
Rochdale	2008-09
Hammersmith and Fulham	2009-10
South Lakeland	2009-10
Poole	2009-10
Leeds—ENE (formerly East)	2009-10
Newark and Sherwood	2009-10
Islington	2010-11
Rotherham	2010-11
(Leeds—North East)	2010-11
Leeds WNW (formerly NW)	2010-11
(Leeds—West)	2010-11
Wigan	2010-11
Barnsley	2010-11
Leeds—South East	2010-11
Barnet	2010-11
Stockport	2010-11
High Peak	2010-11
Sheffield	2010-11
Ealing	2010-11
Manchester	2010-11
Newham	2010-11
Bury	2010-11
Stockton	2010-11
Newcastle	2010-11
Gateshead	2010-11
Hounslow	2010-11
Sandwell	2010-11
Solihull	2011-12
ALMOs who have passed their Audit Commission inspections later than originally planned	
Waltham Forest	2010-11
Gloucester	2011-12
Wear Valley	2011-12
Eastbourne	2012-13
Wolverhampton	2012-13
Bassetlaw	2012-13
Doncaster	2013-14

Authority with arm's length management organisation	Date met standard or expecting to meet standard
Rounds 3-5 ALMOs who have yet to pass their Audit Commission inspection	
Hackney	Yet to pass inspection
Lambeth (part)	Yet to pass inspection
Nottingham	Yet to pass inspection
Southend	Yet to pass inspection
Easington	Yet to pass inspection
South Tyneside	Yet to pass inspection
Round 6 bidders	
Haringey	Discussions on investment programme ongoing after successful inspection
Basildon	Yet to pass inspection
Redbridge	Yet to pass inspection
Stevenage	Yet to pass inspection
Blackpool	Yet to pass inspection
Sutton	Yet to pass inspection
Havering	Yet to pass inspection
N E Derbyshire	Yet to pass inspection
Salford	Yet to pass inspection
Sedgemoor	Yet to pass inspection

Bellwin Scheme

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much financial compensation has been given to local authorities affected by flooding in July 2007 which has not come from the Bellwin scheme. [166225]

John Healey: To date the Government have made available a significant package of up to £57 million to support areas affected by the flooding of June and July 2007. None of this has to date come from the Bellwin scheme. This includes the following assistance provided to local authorities and other public bodies:

Up to £20 million in Flood Recovery Grant for local authorities affected by the floods to support their work in helping those in greatest and most immediate need. £7,390,000 was paid out to local authorities affected by the July floods. Full details of the grant paid out to local authorities is available on the Communities and Local Government website:

www.communities.gov.uk/floodrecovery

£14 million for schools and children's services affected by the floods, of which over £4 million has been paid out to those affected by the July floods. Full details of the grant allocation are given in the following tables.

£10 million for repairs to the local highway with more to come for affected local authorities as claims are submitted.

£1 million which can be drawn on as contingency reserve for use by Jobcentre Plus to support additional demand for Social Fund Community Care Grants.

As of 9 November, the Department for Work and Pensions had paid Community Care Grants totalling £707,000 to people on qualifying benefits to meet the cost of replacing essential household items.

£1 million to support rural tourism in England through promoting rural destinations and visitor attractions and a targeted marketing campaign.

In addition, over £11 million has been made available by Regional Development Agencies for businesses affected in their regions. Regional Development Agencies continue to assess the needs of business in the affected regions and have adapted or expanded their support to meet such demand. Further information is available on the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) website:

www.berr.gov.uk/regional/regional-dev-agencies/flood-recovery/page40623.html

Bellwin schemes have been activated nationwide, for all authorities affected by June and July floods, and are amongst the most generous ever. 50 local authorities have registered for assistance for the June scheme and 52 have registered for the July scheme. 20 local authorities have registered for both schemes. Authorities have six months to spend under this scheme and none have yet submitted their claim to Government.

Funding allocated to local authorities by the Department for Children, Schools and Families following the June and July 2007 floods (as of 19 November 2007)

Local authority	Allocation for June floods	Allocation for July floods	£ Total allocation
Kingston upon Hull	3,214,424	—	3,214,424
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,477,549	—	1,477,549
Gloucestershire	—	1,007,900	1,007,900
Nottinghamshire	858,508	—	858,508
Rotherham	828,959	—	828,959
Worcestershire	50,000	644,102	694,102
Doncaster	614,862	—	614,862
Warwickshire	81,733	481,070	562,803
Sheffield	498,394	—	498,394
West Berkshire	—	423,404	423,404
Lincolnshire	210,930	—	210,930
Oxfordshire	—	180,422	180,422
Wakefield	179,373	—	179,373
Richmond	—	159,952	159,952
Merton	—	156,489	156,489
Herefordshire	50,000	106,011	156,011
Wokingham	—	129,942	129,942
Kingston Upon Thames	—	128,362	128,362
Barnsley	123,866	—	123,866
Croydon	—	121,580	121,580
Derbyshire	119,761	—	119,761
Surrey	—	118,989	118,989
Sutton	—	118,908	118,908
Wandsworth	—	110,591	110,591
Staffordshire	70,907	—	70,907
Solihull	70,735	—	70,735
Windsor and Maidenhead	—	60,072	60,072
Swindon	—	58,067	58,067
East Sussex	—	50,958	50,958
Birmingham	50,000	—	50,000
Dudley	50,000	—	50,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	50,000	50,000
Harrow	—	50,000	50,000
Kensington and Chelsea	—	50,000	50,000
Kirklees	50,000	—	50,000

Funding allocated to local authorities by the Department for Children, Schools and Families following the June and July 2007 floods (as of 19 November 2007)

£

Local authority	Allocation for June floods	Allocation for July floods	Total allocation
Lambeth	—	50,000	50,000
Leeds	50,000	—	50,000
North East Lincolnshire	50,000	—	50,000
North Lincolnshire	50,000	—	50,000
North Yorkshire	50,000	—	50,000
Northamptonshire	50,000	—	50,000
Reading	—	50,000	50,000
Sandwell	50,000	—	50,000
Shropshire	50,000	—	50,000
Telford and Wrekin	50,000	—	50,000
Walsall	50,000	—	50,000
Total	9,050,001	4,306,819	13,356,820

Note:
As well as these allocations to local authorities, DCSF has paid for surveyors used by some local authorities, and will be meeting some other local authority costs from the contingency fund remaining from the overall allocation of £14 million

Funding allocated to local authorities by the Department for Children, Schools and Families following the June and July 2007 floods (as of 19 November 2007)

£

Local authority	Allocation for June floods	Allocation for July floods	Total allocation
Kingston upon Hull	3,214,424	—	3,214,424
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,477,549	—	1,477,549
Gloucestershire	—	1,007,900	1,007,900
Nottinghamshire	858,508	—	858,508
Rotherham	828,959	—	828,959
Worcestershire	50,000	644,102	694,102
Doncaster	614,862	—	614,862
Warwickshire	81,733	481,070	562,803
Sheffield	498,394	—	498,394
West Berkshire	—	423,404	423,404
Lincolnshire	210,930	—	210,930
Oxfordshire	—	180,422	180,422
Wakefield	179,373	—	179,373
Richmond	—	159,952	159,952
Merton	—	156,489	156,489
Herefordshire	50,000	106,011	156,011
Wokingham	—	129,942	129,942
Kingston Upon Thames	—	128,362	128,362
Barnsley	123,866	—	123,866
Croydon	—	121,580	121,580
Derbyshire	119,761	—	119,761
Surrey	—	118,989	118,989
Sutton	—	118,908	118,908
Wandsworth	—	110,591	110,591
Staffordshire	70,907	—	70,907
Solihull	70,735	—	70,735
Windsor and Maidenhead	—	60,072	60,072
Swindon	—	58,067	58,067

Funding allocated to local authorities by the Department for Children, Schools and Families following the June and July 2007 floods (as of 19 November 2007)

£

Local authority	Allocation for June floods	Allocation for July floods	Total allocation
East Sussex	—	50,958	50,958
Birmingham	50,000	—	50,000
Dudley	50,000	—	50,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	50,000	50,000
Harrow	—	50,000	50,000
Kensington and Chelsea	—	50,000	50,000
Kirklees	50,000	—	50,000
Lambeth	—	50,000	50,000
Leeds	50,000	—	50,000
North East Lincolnshire	50,000	—	50,000
North Lincolnshire	50,000	—	50,000
North Yorkshire	50,000	—	50,000
Northamptonshire	50,000	—	50,000
Reading	—	50,000	50,000
Sandwell	50,000	—	50,000
Shropshire	50,000	—	50,000
Telford and Wrekin	50,000	—	50,000
Walsall	50,000	—	50,000
Total	9,050,001	4,306,819	13,356,820

Note:
As well as these allocations to local authorities, DCSF has paid for surveyors used by some local authorities, and will be meeting some other local authority costs from the contingency fund remaining from the overall allocation of £14 million

Council Housing: Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities are using the new prudential borrowing framework; and how much each such local authority has borrowed. [164842]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the information on capital expenditure financed by self-financed borrowing (unsupported by central Government) for each local authority in England in 2004-05 and 2005-06.

These figures are derived from Communities and Local Government Capital Outturn Returns.

Council Housing: Sales

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local housing authorities are required to ascertain the source of funds at the disposal of those tenants seeking to purchase council housing stock *(a)* with a discount and *(b)* without a discount and who immediately prior to their application to purchase were in receipt of (i) means tested state benefits and (ii) local authority means tested benefits; and if she will make a statement. [164733]

Mr. Iain Wright: Secure tenants of local authorities who have spent at least two years as a social tenant (or five years if their tenancy started on or after 18 January 2005) have the right to buy their homes at a discount, unless:

they are bankrupt or are facing bankruptcy proceedings

they are facing possession proceedings

they are renting their homes in connection with their employment, or

their homes are particularly suitable for occupation by elderly or disabled people.

It is up to tenants to ensure that they have sufficient resources to purchase their homes. There are no requirements on local authorities to check on this.

Local authorities who offer the pilot Social HomeBuy scheme, under which tenants may buy a minimum 25 per cent. share in their home at a discount, apply an affordability test to determine whether a tenant can afford to sustain home ownership. This is because Social HomeBuy is aimed at people who are unable to afford the cost of outright ownership. The test involves looking at the tenant's income, including benefits where appropriate, and at the costs of purchase (e.g. stamp duty, legal fees) and the on-going costs of home ownership (e.g. a mortgage, rent on the landlord's retained equity and service charges).

Local authorities can sell properties to tenants on voluntary terms at a discount, under section 32 of the Housing Act 1985. It is up to tenants to ensure that they have sufficient resources to purchase their homes. There are no requirements on local authorities to check on this.

Council Housing: Waiting Lists

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households there have been on waiting lists for housing in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* Leeds and *(c)* West Yorkshire in each year from 1997. [166277]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not hold information for areas smaller then local authority districts. Data for the Leeds city council area as a whole and for West Yorkshire are set out in the following table:

	Leeds	*West Yorkshire*
1997	19,643	54,792
1998	18,854	50,652
1999	27,013	49,102
2000	22,767	43,283
2001	25,318	44,790
2002	26,641	49,189
2003	31,105	65,803
2004	30,959	73,206
2005	30,699	83,724
2006	23,851	90,766
2007	24,780	101,995

Note:
Data relate to 31 March each year.
Source:
CLG's annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return

Departmental Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many reports have been made to her Department's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised Civil Service Code since its publication on 6 June 2006; [162474]

(2) how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to her Department by departmental staff since 6 June 2006; [162475]

(3) when her Department's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised Civil Service Code. [162476]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 596W.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the full-time equivalent headcount in her Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for her Department is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if she will make a statement. [163986]

Mr. Dhanda: The full-time equivalent staffing levels for the Department for Communities and Local Government, are published by the Office of National Statistics at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pse0907.pdf

The Departmental business planning process is not yet complete and so future year forecasts are not yet available.

Fire Services: Freedom of Information

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Freedom of Information requests her Department has received on fire control centres; from whom the requests came; and how many received responses. [165915]

Mr. Dhanda: We have received 15 Freedom of Information requests relating to the FiReControl project since 1 January 2005. Details of who made the requests is shown in the following table. This includes eight from FBU officials, two from Gloucestershire county council, one from an FRS employee, three from journalists and one person who did not specify their connection to any organisation.

The responses to all 15 requests are available on the FiReControl website and a copy of these will also be placed in the House Library.

FOI No.	*Date of letter*	*From*	*Organisation*	*Subject*	*Release date*
F000135	30 December 2004	Nigel Roberts	Gloucestershire County Council	Gloucs Tri-Service	3 February 2005
F000132	4 January 2005	Name withheld	Not specified	Decision making process for SW Region	2 February 2005
F001022	4 January 2005	Viv Horton	FBU	Location - YH RCC	11 January 2005

FOI No.	Date of letter	From	Organisation	Subject	Release date
F001061	13 January 2005	Duncan Little	ITV1 West Country	Bids/Criteria/PFI/Staff/Costs-SW	9 February 2005
F001094	4 February 2005	Andrew Cooper	FBU	Costs	4 March 2005
F001103	6 February 2005	Jean Westwood	FBU	Sites/Costs	14 April 2005
F001122	10 February 2005	Mike Hill	Lancashire Evening Post	Risk Assessment	14 March 2005
F001163	7 March 2005	Andrew Cooper	FBU	Costs of PA consultants	7 April 2005
F001164	5 March 2005	Andrew Cooper	FBU	Forecast Expenditure	4 April 2005
F001168	7 March 2005	John Drake	FBU	Spend on Consultants	7 April 2005
F001194	16 March 2005	Nigel Roberts	Gloucestershire County Council	Glouca Tri-Service	6 May 2005
F001314	24 June 2005	Paul Watts	FBU	Consultants Fees	5 August 2005
F001534	25 January 2006	Paul Watts	FBU	Costs breakdown	20 February 2006
F001772	18 July 2006	Ben Norman	Exeter Express and Echo	Costs - SW	16 August 2006
F001850	6 September 2006	Paul Watts	FBU	Costs	4 October 2006

[1] Name withheld as this may well be a private person acting in his private capacity, and as such releasing his name is could breach one or more the data protection principles in the Data Protection Act 1998. This consideration does not apply with equal force to the other names in the table since they are asking on behalf of the organisations that they represent, and not as private individuals.

Fire Services: Pensions

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the effects on previously retired firefighters of the amended guidance on the ill health benefits of the Firefighters Pension scheme; and if she will review the guidance in the light of these representations. [164489]

Mr. Dhanda: Representations have been received from the Fire Brigades Union, the Fire Officers Association, the Retained Firefighters' Union and the Association of Principal Fire Officers and several other representative organisations about the arrangements for ill-health retirements under the Firefighters' Pension scheme. The issues raised are being considered so that we can be satisfied that the provisions and their associated informal guidance are operating effectively.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact on housing policy of Government proposals to move towards a lower carbon national grid. [162664]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department works closely with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to ensure that the impacts on housing policy of proposals on energy policy, and vice versa, are identified and considered. For example, delivery of our ambitious and world leading policy for all new homes to be zero carbon from 2016 will depend on use of renewable and low carbon energy.

Housing: Construction

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many house building starts there were in each of the last 24 months; and if she will make a statement. [165779]

Mr. Iain Wright: Figures on new build are only available centrally on a quarterly basis and are presented as follows:

New build starts by quarter, October 2005 to September 2007, England

Quarter	Starts
2005	
October-December	46,037
2006	
January-March	47,236
April-June	44,114
July-September	40,940
October-December	46,202
2007	
January-March	42,815
April-June	40,149
July-September	42,596

Source:
New build completions from P2 returns submitted by local authorities and National House Building Council (NHBC)

Housing: Energy

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many qualified domestic energy assessors need to be in place in *(a)* England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* the Maldon district to allow a full roll-out of the Energy Performance Certificate scheme. [163087]

Yvette Cooper: The implementation update published on 11 June set out the criteria for roll-out of further phases of home information packs.

Housing: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes have been built within the Leeds, West constituency in each year since 1997. [166274]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not have data on house building below local authority level. New build completions as reported by Leeds city council for the metropolitan district as a whole are provided in the following table:

	Number
1997-98	1,454
1998-99	1,744
1999-2000	1,952
2000-01	1,984
2001-02	1,928
2002-03	2,002
2003-04	2,948
2004-05	3,123
2005-06	3,229
2006/07	2,685

Source:
P2 returns as reported by the National House-Building Council and Leeds City Council

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the levels of overcrowding in Leeds, West constituency; and if she will make a statement. [166275]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not have information on the level of overcrowding for areas below Government office regions. The Department's Survey of English Housing shows that in 2003-04 to 2005-06, there were 30,000 overcrowded households in Yorkshire and the Humber, representing a rate of overcrowding of 1.4 per cent., compared to 2.5 per cent. for England.

Overcrowding is a difficult issue that cannot be treated in isolation from other kinds of housing pressure. We recognise that it is unacceptable that children are growing up in overcrowded households and are committed to ensuring that we have a way to help these households that does not impact adversely on other issues of housing need.

We are committed to updating the current statutory standards for overcrowding and have already taken legislative powers in the Housing Act 2004 to enable us to do so.

Most of the 2006-08 National Affordable Housing Programme in Leeds was directed towards family homes rather than one and two person flats.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what public expenditure has been made on affordable housing in the West Midlands in the last 12 months. [162778]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* Housing Corporation expenditure through their affordable housing programme in the West Midlands region for 2006-07 totalled £98 million.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her assessment is of the level of affordable housing which will need to be included overall in any planning applications to satisfy the level of assessed need in the South East over the next 10 years. [165951]

Mr. Iain Wright: Current Government planning policy for affordable housing in the South East is set out in Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (2001). This states that affordable housing should be provided to meet locally assessed need, and includes a regional monitoring target of around 40 per cent. of total housing supply.

This guidance will be replaced by the new Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South East, which is due to be completed next year. The current draft, prepared by the South East of England Regional Assembly includes an overall regional target of 35 per cent. affordable housing. The draft has been examined in public by a panel of inspectors and their report is currently with the Secretary of State for consideration. The Government will respond to that report by way of proposed changes to the draft RSS for public consultation.

The targets in the RSS are not intended to be incorporated directly into local planning policies. Government policy requires local authorities to establish local targets, based on an understanding of need, the likely economic viability of land for housing within the area and assessments of the likely levels of finance available for affordable housing.

Planning applications for housing should then be considered against local policy, and affordable housing provision in them is subject to negotiations between local authorities, Registered Social Landlords and private developers.

Housing: Prices

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government according to the English Housing Survey, how many and what percentage of homes in England were worth *(a)* £800,000 or more and *(b)* £1,000,000 or more at the most recent date for which figures are available. [165131]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The Survey of English Housing does not collect data on the value of homes.

However the Land Registry does publish information on the number of residential house sales over *(a)* £800,000 and *(b)* over £1 million. These data are for England and Wales only and are published in their monthly House Price Index report.

(a) In July 2007 there were 1,621 properties sold for over £800,000. This was 1.6 per cent. of the 101,582 transactions for the month.

(b) In July 2007 there were 888 properties sold for over £1,000,000. This was 0.9 per cent. of the 101,582 transactions for the month.

Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* Sunderland City Council and *(b)* Sunderland Housing Group received for their housing renewal programme in each year since 2001. [164501]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information is as follows:

Sunderland City Council

The amounts shown in the following table came from several sources. In addition, the city council received £5 million spread over the years 2003-04 to 2007-08.

£

	Home renovation grants allocation	*HIP (housing investment pot)*	*Market rejuvenation SHIP (single housing investment pot) allocations*	*English Partnerships*
2000-01	1.3 million	900,000 clearance	—	—
2001-02	1.425 million	124,000 group repair	—	—
2002-03	1.522 million	150,000 clearance area	—	—
2003-04	2 million	1.2 million	—	5 million (to be spread over several years)
2004-05	1.4 million (SHIP)	—	1.655 million (includes clearance areas)	—
2005-06	1.4 million (SHIP)	—	2.273 million (includes clearance areas)	—
2006-07	681,000 (SHIP)	—	932,000	—
2007-08	660,000 (SHIP)	—	1.612 million	—

Sunderland Housing Group (now named Gentoo)

The following allocations have been received from the Housing Corporation to support housing renewal in Sunderland.

Financial year	£
2003-04	3,105,118
2004-05	1,519,680
2005-06	1,519,680
2006-07	5,277,170
2007-08	5,277,170

Influenza

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings she has had with *(a)* devolved administrations, *(b)* regional government and *(c)* local government representatives to discuss the co-ordination of any response in consequence of a potential pandemic influenza outbreak considered arising from Exercise Winter Willow; and if she will make a statement. [164897]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State has had no such meetings. However, CLG Ministers are represented on MISC 32, the Cabinet sub-committee for influenza planning, and officials from this Department attend the cross government Flu Working Group led by Department of Health and Cabinet Office.

The Department also sponsors the regional resilience teams, based in the Government Offices for the Regions, who have been working closely with local and regional agencies in their planning work across a range of resilience issues, including pandemic influenza.

Local Area Agreements: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the status is of the local area agreement in Gloucestershire; which bodies are responsible for setting it up; and what stakeholders are represented. [163264]

John Healey: Local area agreements are an important means of improving the delivery of public services at a local level. They are the mechanism by which central government agrees a range of outcomes and targets with local partnerships. The local area agreement for Gloucestershire was developed through wide consultation in the county. It was signed in March 2007 by the chief executive of Gloucestershire county council on behalf of the county's Local Strategic Partnership, which brings together representatives from the public, private and third sectors. The Local Strategic Partnership has put in place governance structures and performance management arrangements to ensure that the targets in the agreement are achieved. The full text of the agreement can be found at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/laa. It contains a full list of the outcomes and targets agreed as well as of the signatories to the agreement.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the hon. Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) expects to reply to the letter of the hon. Member for Wycombe of 11 October 2007 on placing bids made by local authorities for monies paid from the Preventing Extremism Pathfinder Fund in the Library. [165245]

Mr. Dhanda: I have now sent the hon. Member a reply.

Mortgages: Income

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of houses mortgaged in each of the last 10 years where the ratio of house price to earnings was *(a)* more than 6:1, *(b)* more than 8:1 and *(c)* more than 10:1. [164680]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not collected by Communities and Local Government. However, for the UK, we have made the following estimates based on data from the Regulated Mortgage Survey and the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Number of mortgages by price to income ratio, UK

	House price to income ratio				
	Less than or equal to 6	*Greater than 6 but no more than 8*	*Greater than 8 but no more than 10*	*Greater than 10*	*Total*
1997	1,050,746	31,656	11,230	9,963	1,103,595
1998	1,030,377	35,115	11,600	11,179	1,088,271
1999	1,179,639	44,620	15,464	14,175	1,253,898
2000	1,043,624	47,181	16,815	15,341	1,122,960
2001	1,207,137	64,580	21,093	20,901	1,313,711
2002	1,249,509	89,449	30,076	27,761	1,396,795
2003	1,025,385	130,147	50,201	46,184	1,251,917
2004	935,632	174,841	71,398	62,931	1,244,801
2005	798,731	124,523	49,157	42,310	1,014,722
2006	924,932	120,789	42,352	37,937	1,126,010

Source:
Regulated Mortgage Survey and Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Oxfordshire

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions the Regional Minister for the South East has visited Oxfordshire in the last six months; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* purpose was of each visit. [166298]

Mr. Dhanda: The Minister has not visited Oxfordshire since assuming his post as Minister for the South East.

Planning: Special Protection Areas

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received about the application of the rule restricting residential development within 400 metres of a special protection area; and if she will make a statement. [165348]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Dorset Heaths are a vital part of the natural environment of South East Dorset contributing to the area's special qualities. A substantial part of the Dorset Heaths form part of the European Network of Habitat 2,000 sites which reflects both their importance in terms of nature conservation and the degree of protection therefore afforded to them. The boroughs of Poole, Bournemouth, and Christchurch, together with East Dorset and Purbeck district councils have agreed to develop a long-term strategy for the protection of designated heathlands through the production of a joint Development Plan Document. This allows for more detailed consideration of mechanisms and measures to ensure the appropriate and necessary mitigation of residential development proposed to 2026.

The document has reached Issues and Options stage and has been the subject of a consultation from 17 September to 29 October 2007. The Preferred Options public consultation is programmed for February 2008, a public examination of the submission document is scheduled for May/June 2009 and Adoption anticipated in December 2009.

The Department has received representations from the hon. Member for North Dorset (Mr. Walter) (on behalf of a constituent), Councillor Alan Griffiths (leader of Christchurch borough council), Councillor Dr. Brian Leverett (leader of Poole borough council) and the managing director of Malbury Properties Ltd. in Poole.

Repossession Orders: Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many possession orders were obtained by registered social landlords in the Peterborough city council area in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07; and if she will make a statement. [166678]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not collected by the Department or the Housing Corporation. Registered social landlords (RSLs) are independent organisations regulated by the Housing Corporation. They must demonstrate compliance with the Housing Corporation's regulatory code and guidance, which requires them to seek possession of a property only as a last resort.

Towns Councils: Berwick-upon-Tweed

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will announce her decision on the setting up of a Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council in time for elections to that council to take place in May 2008. [162136]

John Healey *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* I have approved the setting up of a Berwick-upon-Tweed town council, and we will shortly be consulting on a draft implementation order which will provide for the first elections to the new parish to be held in May 2008.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps are being taken to assist local authorities to work more closely with Traveller and Gypsy sites on ensuring appropriate waste management. [165293]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has recently consulted on draft good practice guidance on Gypsy and Traveller site management. This includes guidance on dealing effectively with site and grounds maintenance, waste collection and instances of fly-tipping. Responses to the consultation exercise are currently being analysed and final guidance will be issued in the spring.

Fly-Tipping

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps are being taken to encourage local authorities to work more closely with landowners to combat fly-tipping. [165294]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The Waste Strategy for England, published in May 2007, includes the Government's Illegal Waste Activity Action Plan, which sets out action proposed and being taken in this area. This includes working with stakeholders to consider how the Flycapture database can be enhanced

or improved to enable local authorities to better use data to take action against fly-tipping. This may include extending the scope of the database on a voluntary basis to landowners.

Neither the local authority nor the Environment Agency is under any legal obligation to assist the removal of waste on private land. However, some local authorities are ready to work with landowners to investigate and prosecute repeated incidents of fly-tipping and to tackle specific problems or issues. The Government believe that to place a duty on authorities to remove waste from private land would encourage illegal dumping rather than tackle the problem.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 gave courts the power to make an order against anyone convicted of the main offence of illegal waste disposal to pay for costs incurred by a landowner in removing waste that has been illegally deposited.

In addition, the Environment Agency's National Fly-tipping Prevention Group identifies better ways of preventing and tackling fly-tipping on private land by working closely with organisations like the National Farmers Union, the Country Land and Business Association, Network Rail and the National Trust, and has issued guidance to landowners on how to deal with this problem.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of fuel used by the armed forces was transported into *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan by (i) air transport, (ii) ground transport and (iii) sea transport in each year since 2005. [162567]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Almost all of the fuel used by UK forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan is currently supplied by ground transport and has been since 2005. Other options are available should the operational situation require it.

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much accommodation will be provided for marine commandos on each of the two new aircraft carriers. [165251]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The Carriers will provide flexible accommodation for nearly 1,000 personnel over and above that for the ship's crew. Space available for embarked military personnel will depend on the size of the air group carried and the scale and type of operation being undertaken.

Armed Forces: Desertion

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* shortest, *(b)* longest and *(c)* average length of service was of members of the armed forces reported absent without leave between January 2004 and October 2007. [165800]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the ethnic background was of members of the armed forces reported absent without leave between January 2004 and October 2007. [165801]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent improvements have been made to the treatment of ex-service personnel suffering from anxiety, panic and depression following their service in combat areas. [164548]

Derek Twigg: The Government are committed to good mental health and well-being for its personnel, both in-service and after they leave. For veterans, healthcare is primarily the responsibility of the NHS and in recent years there has been a special focus on mental health, with substantially increased investment in therapists and other frontline trained staff in order to improve access to proven psychological therapies. Veterans are benefiting from these improvements along with others suffering mental illness.

We recognise that there are issues about ensuring culturally sensitive care arrangements for those whose mental health may have been affected by their service in the armed forces.

The Government have a number of initiatives in hand to address this. First, in June we announced the extension of the MOD's medical assessment programme based at St. Thomas' Hospital, London, to provide assessments to any veteran suffering from mental health problems as a result of service in operations since 1982. The service offers an expert military assessment for GPs and other civilian health professionals who may be unfamiliar with the military background to a condition and for veterans who are concerned that the service background to their condition may not have been addressed.

We work very closely with Combat Stress and last year gave £2.5 million in fees and have agreed to a phased increase in the fees we pay, rising to 45 per cent. from January 2008 to enable them to enhance their capability to treat veterans.

For the longer term, the MOD is working with the four UK Health Departments and the charity Combat Stress to pilot a new model of community-based mental health care that will address assessment and treatment of veterans' mental health problems. Implementation of the new model will take place first in six pilot sites around the country. The pilots will run for two years after which they will be subject to full evaluation and, if successful roll out nationwide.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps are taken to ensure that ex-service personnel are aware of available help for stress and mental illness. [165455]

Derek Twigg: The Government are committed to good mental health and well-being for its armed forces personnel, both in-service and after they leave. Education and preventative measures to increase awareness at all levels about stress and mental illness begins when armed forces personnel are serving. These include pre-and post-deployment briefings and the availability of support, assessment, and (if required) treatment, both during and after deployments.

Service leavers, particularly those who have medical problems or who are considered vulnerable, receive advice about the help available to them by MOD welfare services and are given information about the ex-service charities (such as the Royal British Legion and Combat Stress).

Upon leaving the armed forces, responsibility for veterans' health care passes to the NHS.

There has been much public focus on the mental health problems experienced by veterans including information on the sources of help available, and this is reinforced by outreach events and information from the Department. More specifically, plans to pilot a new community-based veterans' mental health service on a regional basis, will involve the establishment of networks of expertise in veterans mental health; these will provide specialised assessment and treatment, but also sign-posting to other sources of advice and support. The pilots include plans to communicate availability of the service both locally and nationally.

We work very closely with Combat Stress and last year gave £2.5 million in fees and have agreed to a phased increase in the fees we pay, rising to 45 per cent. from January 2008 to enable them to enhance their capability to treat veterans.

Details about the services available to veterans are available on the Veterans UK and MOD websites. The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency also operates a freephone helpline: 0800 169 2277 that offers advice on a wide range of issues, including sources of advice and assistance. Advice and assessment is also available through the Department's Medical Assessment Programme (MAP) based at St. Thomas' hospital, London, which is advertised both on the MOD's website and through some of the main pathways to care for veterans; the MAP also offers a freephone contact line on 0800 169 5401.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what items of cold weather clothing were issued to the British service personnel that formed the roulement in Afghanistan as of 1 October 2007; and how many of each item were issued. [162556]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 124W.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Mines

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many BAE Systems mine resistant ambush protection vehicles are in the possession of UK armed forces; and whether any such vehicles are on order for UK armed forces. [162082]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The term mine resistant ambush protected (MRAP) refers to a US programme to counter the threat from improvised explosive devices on current operations. The UK has procured the Mastiff vehicle from Force Protection Inc. to meet a similar requirement. This has been highly successful in service, and further Mastiff vehicles have been ordered, most recently the 140 announced by the Prime Minister on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 24.

There are no BAE Systems mine protected vehicles in service with the UK armed forces, although the Department is examining BAE Systems vehicles along with a number of others to meet future requirements.

Army: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average tour interval was for each battalion of the infantry in the latest period for which figures are available. [165882]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Historical data to support the calculation of average tour intervals for each infantry battalion are not held centrally and could be provided at only disproportionate cost. The most recent tour interval for each battalion is shown in the following table:

Unit deployed	*Last operational deployment (as a unit)*	*Start date*	*Previous operational deployment (as a unit)*	*End date*	*Last unit tour interval (months)*
1 GREN GDS	Afghanistan	May 2007	Iraq	September 2006	8
1 COLDM GDS	Afghanistan	October 2007	Iraq	October 2005	23
1 SG	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	April 2005	31
1 IG	Iraq	June 2007	Northern Ireland	March 2004	38
1 WG	Balkans	October 2006	Iraq	April 2005	17
1 SCOTS (1 RS)[1]	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	May 2006	18
1 SCOTS (1 KOSB)[1]	Iraq	December 2007	Northern Ireland	July 2006	16
2 SCOTS	Iraq	April 2004	Balkans	October 1999	53
3 SCOTS	Iraq	July 2004	Iraq	June 2003	12
4 SCOTS	Iraq	November 2005	Balkans	October 2003	24
5 SCOTS	Balkans	April 2005	Iraq	July 2004	8
1 PWRR	Iraq	May 2006	Iraq	October 2004	18
2 PWRR	Iraq	January 2005	Northern Ireland	December 2003	12
1 RRF	Iraq	November 2005	Iraq	June 2003	28

Unit deployed	Last operational deployment (as a unit)	Start date	Previous operational deployment (as a unit)	End date	Last unit tour interval (months)
2 RRF	Northern Ireland	April 2003	Northern Ireland	June 2002	9
1 R ANGLIAN	Afghanistan	May 2007	Iraq	October 2005	18
2 R ANGLIAN	Iraq	May 2006	Afghanistan	October 2003	30
1 KORBR[2]	Iraq	November 2005	Balkans	October 2000	60
1 KINGS[2]	Iraq	July 2003	Prior to January 1999	—	—
QLR[2]	Iraq	July 2003	Northern Ireland	September 2001	21
1 LANCS[2]	Iraq	December 2007	n/a	—	—
2 LANCS[2]	Iraq	November 2006	n/a	—	—
1 YORKS	Iraq	November 2006	Balkans	September 2004	25
2 YORKS	Afghanistan	October 2007	Balkans	September 2006	12
3 YORKS	Iraq	November 2004	Balkans	June 2001	40
1 R WELSH	Cyprus (Theatre Reserve Battalion)	May 2007	Northern Ireland	January 2006	15
2 R WELSH	Iraq	June 2007	Iraq	October 2005	19
1 MERCIAN	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	October 2004	37
2 MERCIAN	Afghanistan	May 2007	Afghanistan	April 2005	24
3 MERCIAN	Iraq	November 2006	Iraq	October 2005	12
1 RIFLES (1 RGBW)[3]	Afghanistan	October 2005	Northern Ireland	July 2003	26
1 RIFLES (1 D&D)[3]	Iraq	May 2006	Northern Ireland	March 2001	61
1 RIFLES	—	—	—	—	—
2 RIFLES	Iraq	November 2006	Northern Ireland	September 2004	25
3 RIFLES	Iraq	September 2006	Northern Ireland	March 2005	17
4 RIFLES	Iraq	June 2007	Balkans	October 2001	67
5 RIFLES	Iraq	May 2006	Iraq	April 2004	24
1 R IRISH	Iraq	July 2005	Iraq	May 2003	25
1 PARA	Northern Ireland	March 2005	Iraq	June 2003	20
2 PARA	Iraq	November 2005	Iraq	March 2004	19
3 PARA	Afghanistan	April 2006	Northern Ireland	August 2004	19
1 RGR	Afghanistan	October 2007	Balkans	March 2006	18
2RGR	Afghanistan	April 2005	Afghanistan	April 2004	11

[1] 1RS and 1 KOSB amalgamated to form 1 SCOTS in August 2006. 1 SCOTS is to deploy for the first time as a formed unit to Iraq in December 2007.
[2] 1 KORBR, 1 KINGS and QLR amalgamated in July 2006 to form 1 LANCS and 2 LANCS. Op TELIC 11 will be the first unit operational deployment for 1 LANCS. Because of the nature of this amalgamation it is not representative to carry forward the unit deployments of 1 KORBR, 1 KINGS and QLR to 1 LANCS and 2 LANCS.
[3] 1 RGBW and 1 DDLI amalgamated in March 2007 to form 1 RIFLES. 1 RIFLES has yet to deploy as a formed unit.

AWE Burghfield

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the last health and safety audit was carried out at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Burghfield; what the outcome was with particular reference to the state of Gravel Gertie facilities; and if he will make a statement. [164137]

Des Browne: The most recent health and safety audit at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield was an inspection by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) during the period 5-9 November 2007. The NII have confirmed that no new issues were raised in relation to the material condition or functionality of the facilities, including the Gravel Gerties.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold a public consultation on the US's use of Menwith Hill base as part of the US Missile Defense Programme; and if he will make a statement. [165043]

Des Browne: The MOD published a consultation paper on 8 December 2002, "Missile Defence: A Public Discussion Paper", ahead of a full parliamentary debate on 15 January 2003 on the UK's involvement in the US ballistic missile defence system. The principles underpinning that debate have not changed, and we have no plans to hold a further public consultation on this issue.

Consultants: Contracts

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts his Department has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts are for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163816]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, I am able to provide details of contracts placed for external consultants in the current financial year for management and business consultancy, financial and accountancy services, corporate governance and audit, support to PPP/PFI projects and legal services and these are shown in the following table.

Details of the MOD's expenditure on external assistance have been reported to Ministers since 1995-96 and summaries are available in the Library of the House.

Furthermore, information on organisations, including consultancy firms, paid £5 million or more by the Department in each financial year is published in the UK Defence Statistics. Copies of this are also available in the Library of the House.

Supplier	*Start date*	*End date*	*Contract value*
Atos Consulting Ltd.	3 September 2007	2 November 2007	95,959
Atos	1 June 2007	31 October 2007	99,024
Atos Origin	9 July 2007	31 August 2007	26,745
Atos Consulting Ltd.	1 June 2007	30 September 2007	99,289
Deloitte	19 September 2007	31 March 2008	113,135
Simpler Consulting Ltd.	1 October 2007	31 March 2008	60,000
Simpler Consulting	7 May 2007	31 October 2007	125,400
Simpler Consulting Ltd.	1 April 2007	30 September 2007	296,360
Simpler Consulting	1 April 2007	31 March 2008	159,600
Lloyds Register Quality Assurance Ltd.	1 February 2008	31 September 2011	7,000
Bsquared	Extension period 1 July 2007	28 February 2008	60,000
Individual Consultant	16 February 2007	15 February 2008	7,500
Partnering Solutions	10 April 2007	4 May 2007	19,000
PA Consulting	1 August 2007	30 November 2009	140,000
PA Consulting	28 June 2007	30 November 2007	45,000
SMT Consulting	28 August 2007	2 October 2007	48,850
Ward-Knight Ltd.	1 July 2007	1 October 2007	6,375
Wyman Dillon Ltd.	1 September 2007	31 August 2010	60,000
PWC	24 May 2007	1 July 2007	16,987
Minty	2 July 2007	31 August 2007	69,976
Individual Consultant	9 July 2007	31 December 2007	22,000
Blue Edge	1 July 2007	31 July 2007	8,000
Inspira UK Ltd.	24 July 2007	30 November 2007	17,150
Water for Fish	1 August 2007	31 December 2007	46,000
Intelliks Ltd.	1 September 2007	31 August 2008	46,800
Individual Consultant	1 August 2007	30 September 2007	4,000
Individual Consultant	10 August 2007	31 March 2008	100,000
Stanton Marris	2 August 2007	31 October 2007	25,200
ORMultiView	22 August 2007	31 July 2008	24,240
Deloitte MCS Ltd.	9 July 2007	3 August 2007	45,600
Deloitte MCS Ltd.	9 October 2007	30 September 2011	2,049,411
Individual Consultant	1 December 2007	31 October 2008	37,500
Mentis Consulting Ltd.	26 September 2007	11 October 2007	12,150
Blue Edge Consulting Ltd.	2 October 2007	11 January 2008	35,000
Catalyze Ltd.	1 September 2007	30 September 2007	13,000
Individual Consultant	10 September 2007	18 September 2007	7,100
Harpum Consulting	14 September 2007	31 March 2008	13,250
HASCAS	1 April 2007	31 March 2009	35,700
Individual Consultant	17 September 2007	30 September 2007	5,000
Individual Consultant	27 September 2007	30 November 2007	18,400
Individual Consultant	22 October 2007	30 November 2007	5,000
Individual Consultant	4 October 2007	2 November 2007	12,500
Individual Consultant	15 October 2007	15 November 2007	4,650
Beamans	25 October 2007	30 November 2007	5,135
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	1 June 2007	31 January 2008	550,000
CROSSTC Limited	6 November 2007	31 January 2008	5,000
Catalyze Ltd.	4 July 2007	20 July 2007	10,950
KPMG	25 October 2007	9 November 2007	95,300
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	23 July 2007	30 September 2007	376,839
Burges Salmon	10 January 2006	10 January 2010	391,288
DWS	10 January 2006	10 January 2010	743,970
Freshfields	10 January 2006	10 January 2010	97,410
Individual Consultant	10 January 2006	10 January 2010	0
M&R	10 January 2006	10 January 2010	15,585
Pinsent Masons	10 January 2006	10 January 2010	34,101
Sheppard & Wedderburn	10 January 2006	10 January 2010	0
Wragge & Co	10 January 2006	10 January 2010	801,574
Addleshaw Booth	9 January 2002	9 January 2006	423,906
DLA	9 January 2002	9 January 2006	32,065
Freshfields	9 January 2002	9 January 2006	0
Sheppard & Wedderburn	9 January 2002	9 January 2006	6,555
Simmons & Simmons	9 January 2002	9 January 2006	1,109,175
Veale Wasbourough	9 October 2002	9 January 2006	200,813
Eversheds	9 January 2002	9 January 2006	50,514
Masons	8 January 1998	9 January 2002	4,211
McGrigor Donald	8 January 1998	9 January 2002	0
Pinsent Masons	8 January 1998	9 January 2002	15,200
	8 January 1998	9 January 2002	691,343
Total	—	—	9,803,585

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which consultancy firms were hired for defence procurement in each of the last six months; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost was of each engagement. [164860]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, I am able to provide the estimated expenditure on consultancy firms engaged by defence equipment and support to support defence procurement activities between April and October 2007. I have placed a copy of the list in the Library of the House.

The estimates do not include expenditure on manpower substitution and technical consultancy.

Departmental Flexible Working

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours (i) in the Department and (ii) the executive agencies for which the Department is responsible. [164331]

Derek Twigg: The number of staff who have requested but been refused flexible working is not known. However 1,055 requests to work flexibly have been approved between 27 November 2006 (when a centralised recording system was created) and 13 November 2007.

There are currently 2,356 staff recorded as working flexible hours in the Department. This includes executive agencies and the figure above. However, some written requests for flexible working are made informally between managers and staff. These will be formally recorded locally.

Departmental Losses

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the list of his Department's losses and special payment cases in financial year 2006-07. [164434]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information has been published in the MOD's 2006-07 Annual Report and Accounts (Note 31 on pages 270 to 274 of HC 697 of 23 July 2007). Copies have been placed in the Library of the House and are available on line at

http://www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/8A6AC2DI-3CA3-4C12-82F8-5AD8C1800FFA/0/accounts.pdf.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what entertainment or hospitality members of his Department's management board received in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [164751]

Derek Twigg: The Civil Service Management Code and Queen's Regulations set out the rules on acceptance and registration of hospitality by civil servants and military personnel. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by members of departmental boards. The first list for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the current calendar year.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans resident in *(a)* Enfield and *(b)* Enfield, North constituency have applied for their Veterans Day badge. [165123]

Derek Twigg: Information is not held in the correct format to make an accurate assessment of the number of veterans resident in Enfield and Enfield, North constituency that have applied for their veterans badge. However, I can confirm that a total of 511 residents in the Enfield area have applied and received their veterans lapel badge.

Future Surface Combatant

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what strategic and tactical roles are envisaged for the Future Surface Combatant; and what guidance has been given to the design teams in respect of each role. [165174]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The Future Surface Combatant (FSC) is expected to build on the capabilities of the existing Type 22 and Type 23 multi-purpose frigates that they will replace, as an integral part of the balanced fleet required to support the UK's future defence commitments. FSC is at the early stages of concept design and the detailed user requirements have yet to be defined.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Mastiff vehicles have been uparmoured in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since 2006. [162561]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As part of the UK conversion programme, Mastiff vehicles are upgraded prior to deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan. This includes the fitting of additional armour protection. Protection levels are continually assessed and improvements may in future be incorporated in theatre or the UK as necessary.

Libyan Arab Republic: Arms Trade

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what factors are taken into account when licensing military exports to Libya. [165581]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

The UK has one of the most rigorous and transparent export licensing regimes in the world. All licence applications are individually assessed on a case-by-case basis against "The Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria". The criteria cover, in detail, how we assess each case. Some of the key factors considered include: an assessment of the nature and military capability of the equipment; the prevailing circumstances in the proposed country of import; the expected end-use and end-user of the equipment; the human rights record of the importing country; and whether there is a clear risk that the export might be used for internal repression. The criteria also requires us to take into account the risk of military equipment being re- exported or diverted under undesirable conditions. We will not issue an export licence for equipment destined for any country, unless we are satisfied the application meets the high standards of the consolidated criteria.

Military Bases

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which of his Department's bases are mothballed. [165064]

Derek Twigg: The defence estate is kept under continuous review to ensure that it is no larger than required for defence purposes.

Sites for which there is no longer a military purpose are disposed of as soon as possible. Sites which are retained though vacant, are either awaiting disposal or a decision as to their further use. Sites are not retained as a contingency against unidentified potential uses.

Military Bases: Security

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many breaches of security were reported at his Department's bases and headquarters in each of the last five years; how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* prosecutions resulted; and if he will make a statement. [165653]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information will take time to be collated as the data will have to be obtained from different areas of the Department. I will write to the hon. Member when the information has been compiled and place a copy of my reply in the Library of the House.

NATO Response Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which military units formed the UK's commitment to the NATO Response Force in 2005. [165885]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: From January to June 2005, the UK's contributions to the NATO Response Force were the Maritime Component Command together with associated supporting forces, including a carrier and associated aircraft, a destroyer/frigate escort, mine hunter, auxiliary support and maritime patrol aircraft; and the Special Forces Component Command and associated support aircraft. The UK also made available elements in support of an air-to-air refuelling unit, and two airborne early warning and four tactical air transport aircraft as part of the Air Component. From July to December 2005, the UK made available one destroyer/frigate and one mine hunter to the Maritime Component; and 18 air defence/fighter bomber, two maritime patrol, four tactical air transport and three air-to-air refuelling aircraft to the Air Component.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which military units will form the UK's contribution to the NATO Response Force in 2008. [166003]

Des Browne: From January to June 2008, the UK's contribution to the NATO Response Force will be one carrier and associated aircraft together with an escort ship (a destroyer or frigate) and a deployable air operating base (comprising four Tornado GR4 aircraft, and associated air-to-air refuelling, airborne early warning, and tactical air transport aircraft). The details of the UK's contribution from July to December 2008 have yet to be confirmed. All forces will be drawn from the Joint Rapid Reaction Force.

Nimrod Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many instances of fuel leaks from Nimrod aircraft have been recorded in the last 12 months. [164431]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

RAF St. Athan: Housing

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to *(a)* build and *(b)* finance married quarters at RAF St. Athan. [165868]

Derek Twigg: Currently there are sufficient Service Families Quarters for the service personnel stationed in St. Athan. However, under proposals being developed for the Defence Training Review (DTR) Programme, a new Defence Training Academy will be built at St. Athan. The academy will bring additional service personnel to the area and accommodation for their families will be required. A project has been established to arrange their procurement in parallel with the DTR Programme and provision has been made to finance this acquisition.

Spearhead Land Element

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which regiment or battalion forms the Spearhead Land Element (SLE); whether the SLE is fully equipped; whether the present SLE is deployed; and when the new SLE will take over from the present SLE. [166004]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The 3rd Battalion The Rifles form the Spearhead Land Element (SLE), which is not currently deployed. The SLE is currently fully equipped in accordance with the Joint Rapid Reaction Force Directive and operational mounting instructions. The next SLE will be provided by the 2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles, who will assume this role from 17 December 2007.

Territorial Army: Anniversaries

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans the Government have for celebrating the centenary in 2008 of the establishment of the Territorial Army; and whether it intends to involve hon. and right hon. Members in such celebrations. [165047]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my predecessor on 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 41WS, and my reply on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2176W, to the hon. Member for Westbury (Dr. Murrison).

Details of the forthcoming TA100 events have not yet been confirmed. I hope to be in a position to make an announcement in the new year, which will include details of the involvement of all key stakeholders in the celebrations.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what preparations are being made by his Department to mark the 100th anniversary of the Territorial Army; and how much has been allocated by his Department to fund events related to this anniversary. [165138]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the announcement made by my predecessor on 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 41WS, and the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Westbury (Dr. Murrison) on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2176W.

Details of the forthcoming TA100 events have not yet been confirmed. I hope to be in a position to make an announcement in the new year, which will include details of the involvement of all key stakeholders in the celebrations.

Territorial Army: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the central heating and hot water system at Colchester Territorial Army Centre recently broke down; what arrangements have been made for repairs or replacement; and when he expects the system to be fully operational. [165909]

Derek Twigg: The replacement of the heating and hot water system at the Colchester TA Centre was a planned installation, and work began on 8 November. It was hoped to maintain the heating system during the new installation using one of the existing boilers, but unfortunately this broke down on the same afternoon and it was discovered that replacement parts could not be obtained. Temporary heating was brought in to both the Drill Hall and the centre's offices on 9 November.

It is intended that the installation of the new system will be complete by early December.

Territorial Army: Manpower

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the latest *(a)* establishment and *(b)* strength of the Territorial Army is for each rank of (i) officer and (ii) non-commissioned officer. [165050]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A detailed breakdown of Territorial Army liability figures by rank is not currently available. However, the overall Territorial Army liability as at 1 March 2007 was 42,000 which includes 3,500 Officer Training Corps.

The total strength of the Territorial Army as at 1 March 2007 was 35,700. This is broken down in the tables:

Territorial Army (TA) Officers by paid rank as at 1 March 2007

Paid rank	*Strength*
Brigadier	10
Colonel	90
Lieutenant Colonel	340
Major	1,670
Captain	1,890
Lieutenant	720
Second Lieutenant	430
Total	5,150

Notes:
1. TA Officers include Group A and B, Mobilised TA, and excludes Non Regular Permanent Staff and Full Time Reserve Service.
2. The data have been rounded to the nearest 10 for statistical analysis and presentation purposes only.
3. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not appear to be the sum of their parts.
4. Numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Territorial Army (TA) non-commissioned Officers by paid rank as at 1 March 2007

Paid rank	*Strength*
Warrant Officer Class 1	200
Warrant Officer Class 2	1,070
Staff Sergeant	1,290
Sergeant	2,300
Corporal	3,180
Lance Corporal	3,450
Total	11,490

Notes:
1. TA Soldiers include Group A and Group B, Mobilised TA, Officer Training Corps and excludes Non Regular Permanent Staff and Full Time Reserve Service.
2. The data have been rounded to the nearest 10 for statistical analysis and presentation purposes only.
3. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not appear to be the sum of their parts.
4. Numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Warships: Shipbuilding

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ships will be built under the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability programme; and if he will make a statement. [165171]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) project is currently in its Assessment Phase. As with all Defence projects, it is not until Main Gate approval has been obtained that decisions such as final vessel numbers are confirmed. It is therefore too early to determine the number of ships that will be built under the MARS project.

The MOD is currently analysing the various options available to best procure the MARS ships, concentrating initially on the fleet tankers which are the most urgently required vessels.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Basic Skills

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1462-3W, on adult education: basic skills, how many of the learners included in the table were funded through *(a)* further education and *(b)* University for Industry. [166903]

Bill Rammell: Figures for adults funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) under the Skills for Life programme have been derived from the Individualised Learner Record (ILR).

The following table shows the number of adult learners (in thousands) aged 19 and over, and aged 25 and over who were funded by Further Education (FE) and by University for Industry (Ufi) and who could contribute towards the Skills for Life target in 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06.

	Adults aged 19 and over			*Adults aged 25 and over*		
	FE funded	*Ufi funded*	*Total*	*FE funded*	*Ufi funded*	*Total*
2003/04	—	—	210.7	—	—	148.5
2004/05	223.2	33.7	256.9	158.4	26.7	185.1
2005/06	243.8	64.9	308.7	173.4	49.8	223.2

Please note that a precise breakdown between Ufi and FE is not available for 2003/04.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what efficiency savings projects his Department put in place under the Spending Review 2004 targets; on what date each was initiated; how much each was expected to contribute to the target; how much was saved by each; and if he will make a statement. [164150]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills came into existence in 2007, with its predecessors being parts of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department for Education and Skills. As a result, the efficiency savings programmes for SR04 were initiated by these two Departments, with targets for achievement of £4.35 billion of gains by DfES and £380 million by DTI by 2007/08.

The DTI and DfES put in train efficiency programmes to manage their efficiency gains. Details of their programmes and the underpinning initiatives are set out in the Efficiency Technical Notes which are included on the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) websites.

The Department is jointly committed with DCSF and the BERR to the on-going achievement of these targets. We will set out our contribution to the achievement of the Gershon target in the DIUS Autumn Performance Report, which is due to be published in December 2007.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the full-time equivalent headcount in his Department is; what the forecast full-time equivalent headcount for his Department is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [163991]

Mr. Lammy: The full-time equivalent headcount of staff in my Department is 727 staff. As the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created in the Machinery of Government changes announced on 28 June 2007 there is no specific headcount target for the Department but we remain committed to working with the Department for Children, Schools and Families and Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to ensure that our collective position as three Departments takes note of the former targets for the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department for Education and Skills prior to the MoG changes.

The Department has not yet set workforce forward projections for 2008-09 and 2009-10, however, we will be operating within a strict (and reducing year-on-year) running cost allocation.

Educational Institutions: Fires

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many fires there were in *(a)* further education colleges and *(b)* higher education institutions in each region in each of the last 10 years. [164202]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the total number of fires in all further education establishments attended by each fire and rescue service between 1996 and 2005, the most recent calendar year for which data are available. The further education establishment category includes all post-school age educational establishments, including adult education colleges. Separate data are not available centrally for further education colleges or higher education institutions.

Table 1: Fires[1] in further and higher education establishments by FRS area, England, 1996 to 2005

Fire and rescue service area	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*Total*
England	495	476	453	481	405	467	366	411	438	422	4,414
England: non-met counties	228	264	230	289	246	242	200	220	237	244	2,400
Avon	10	5	9	10	6	9	4	7	8	14	82
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	4	2	5	16
Berkshire	6	12	11	0	15	5	16	17	15	5	102
Buckinghamshire	6	4	5	6	0	4	4	4	0	2	35
Cambridgeshire	14	10	18	15	11	31	15	17	7	24	162
Cheshire	0	5	0	4	4	5	0	9	0	6	33
Cleveland	5	0	4	6	13	5	9	18	8	2	70

Table 1: Fires[1] in further and higher education establishments by FRS area, England, 1996 to 2005

Fire and rescue service area	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
Cornwall	0	5	7	5	0	11	4	0	0	5	37
Cumbria	0	4	0	4	1	6	3	0	1	4	23
Derbyshire	0	4	3	5	4	3	4	10	13	5	51
Devon	6	4	11	14	9	9	0	5	14	6	78
Dorset	9	5	9	12	0	4	0	4	4	3	50
Durham	24	18	21	18	15	10	8	1	13	7	135
East Sussex	11	15	0	14	15	4	8	8	20	14	109
Essex	12	1	0	12	5	5	0	4	0	2	41
Gloucestershire	5	4	0	0	6	6	10	0	5	1	37
Hampshire	7	10	22	13	5	11	6	5	6	13	98
Hereford and Worcester	11	14	8	9	11	0	0	0	0	2	55
Hertfordshire	5	9	14	10	6	0	20	13	0	8	85
Humberside	9	0	6	5	0	0	4	0	6	1	31
Kent	6	10	12	4	13	7	0	4	0	3	59
Lancashire	11	3	7	1	4	0	11	38	33	32	140
Leicestershire	7	24	0	8	10	11	0	0	5	7	72
Lincolnshire	0	5	7	0	5	0	1	1	3	5	27
Norfolk	5	9	0	8	6	3	4	6	3	5	49
North Yorkshire	0	0	5	5	13	1	4	4	4	5	41
Northamptonshire	12	9	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	2	31
Northumberland	0	0	0	4	6	5	0	4	0	0	19
Nottinghamshire	1	10	7	35	7	22	18	17	17	14	148
Oxfordshire	7	24	14	18	32	15	23	0	12	10	155
Shropshire	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	10
Somerset	5	14	0	0	0	6	8	5	0	1	39
Staffordshire	11	7	22	20	9	20	7	0	12	8	116
Suffolk	0	0	0	4	0	16	5	0	1	0	26
Surrey	16	5	9	10	4	0	0	0	20	6	70
Warwickshire	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	3	15
West Sussex	1	0	0	4	6	5	0	0	5	6	27
Wiltshire	6	4	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	2	22
England: met counties	266	212	222	192	159	224	167	192	201	178	2,013
Greater Manchester	38	27	37	25	29	41	36	36	58	40	367
Merseyside	30	15	21	24	16	16	29	0	10	9	170
Sc th Yorkshire	20	31	5	10	9	10	7	18	22	17	149
Tyne and Wear	25	6	28	20	10	9	7	13	10	18	146
West Midlands	38	46	50	47	36	49	46	47	39	36	434
West Yorkshire	42	24	11	19	19	22	5	14	10	11	177
Greater London	73	63	69	46	40	77	37	64	52	47	568

[1] Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003.

National Student Programme: Public Appointments

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how the chairperson of the National Student Programme will be selected. [166197]

Bill Rammell: DIUS will appoint a strong and experienced Chair to guide and oversee the work of the National Student Forum. The Chair will be independent of both Government and the higher education sector.

Oxford University: Applications

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of students in England who achieved three A grade A-levels at state funded schools or colleges applied for Oxford and Cambridge universities in each year since 1997. [165531]

Bill Rammell: The information is not held centrally.

Students: Loans

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what rate of interest has been charged on student loans in each year since their introduction. [166345]

Bill Rammell: The annual rates of interest charged on student loans are set out in the table. The rate of interest is adjusted annually using the Retail Price Index.

Student loans are not like commercial loans. Interest is only charged to maintain the value of the loan in real terms so after adjusting for inflation students only pay back the same amount as they borrowed.

For the vast majority of borrowers with income-contingent loans the prevailing rate of interest makes no difference to the level of their monthly repayments, which continue to be deducted from salary at the rate of 9 per cent. of any income over £15,000 per annum.

Academic year commencing September	*Interest rates taken from RPI at the previous March (percentage)*
1990	8.1
1991	8.2
1992	4.0
1993	1.9
1994	2.3
1995	3.5
1996	2.7
1997	2.6
1998	3.5
1999	2.1
2000	2.6
2001	2.3
2002	1.3
2003	3.1
2004	2.6
2005	3.2
2006	2.4
2007	4.8

Interest rates apply to both Income Contingent and Mortgage Style loans.

Young People: Employment

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's policy is on improving the employment prospects of non-graduates. [166369]

Bill Rammell: The Department is committed to helping low skilled and unemployed people to acquire the platform of skills they need to support them in finding sustainable employment and progress in employment and in learning—represented by basic literacy, numeracy, and full level 2 qualifications. Over the next three years more than £11 billion a year will be invested in education, employment and training initiatives for young people and adults to help boost their job prospects. We are committed to progressively spend more on responsive and flexible training tailored to the needs of the individual and local job opportunities. Key interventions include:

Spend of around £1.5 billion per year on learning below level 2—including support for over 3.6 million learners on 'Skills for Life' courses over three years.

Free, first full level 2 training for adults through the provision of over 800,000 places in 2010/11—a 30 per cent. increase on 2007/08.

For the first time, funding will be targeted specifically at expanding apprenticeships for adults aged over 25. This will mean 30,000 additional such apprenticeships costing £90 million over the next three years.

The provision of over 500,000 full level 3 adult training places (equivalent to 2 A-levels) in 2010/11 an increase of 148 per cent. on 2007/08. Free provision for those aged between 19 and 25.

Young People: Income

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average gross earnings of 25-year-olds who had *(a)* no post-16 qualifications, *(b)* A-levels, *(c)* higher educational qualification and *(d)* a further educational qualification were in each year since 1995; and what the most recent estimate is in each category. [166889]

Bill Rammell: The exact information requested could not be derived as a time series. Instead, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) was used to produce a time series with a broader age range and slightly different qualification categories to those requested. The following table shows the estimates of mean hourly earnings (in £s) by qualifications held for full-time employees aged 23-27[1] in England, using LFS spring quarter results from 1995-2007. More rigorous research by the Centre for the Economics of Education on the wage returns to qualifications is available in the House of Commons Library.

[1] The age range 23-27 was used, because there were too few people aged 25 for the results to be statistically robust. Even with the age range used the estimates are subject to a fair degree of sampling variability and should be treated with caution.

£

	1995	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Average 1995-2007*
Higher education qualifications	7.41	8.54	8.11	7.99	8.95	9.16	9.48	10.28	10.67	10.02	10.66	11.17	11.35	9.52
1 or more A levels[1]	6.51	8.80	7.44	7.76	7.57	8.07	8.47	8.40	7.82	8.85	9.06	10.66	9.38	8.37
A level equivalents including apprenticeships[2]	6.06	5.89	6.22	6.77	7.08	6.85	7.12	7.85	8.15	8.11	8.24	8.81	8.86	7.38
1 or more GCSE A*-C or equivother	5.65	5.79	5.78	6.09	6.21	6.73	6.92	7.31	7.33	7.88	7.69	7.95	8.30	6.89
No qualifications	4.96	4.91	4.97	4.79	4.94	5.26	5.91	5.70	6.79	5.69	7.11	6.96	6.14	5.70
All	6.32	6.88	6.66	6.92	7.48	7.78	8.15	8.64	8.86	8.89	9.20	9.66	9.72	8.09

[1] The "A levels" category includes all 'A' levels attained at all institutions (including Further Education institutions).
[2] "Further Education qualifications" can be attained at a variety of levels. In this analysis the "A level equivalents" category largely consists of vocational level 3 qualifications, but will also include some with AS levels and also apprenticeships which may be at level 2. Vocational level 3 qualifications are often but not always obtained at FE colleges.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Police Service of Northern Ireland on tackling antisocial behaviour in Northern Ireland. [164397]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office Community Safety Unit liaises with both the PSNI Community Safety Branch and local operational officers on tackling antisocial behaviour.

Tackling antisocial behaviour is one of the key themes in the Northern Ireland community safety strategy and has been identified by each of the 26 local community safety partnerships as a key priority in their area. The Police Service of Northern Ireland is represented on each of the community safety partnerships.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Telephone Services

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to introduce a geographical telephone number for the Police Service of Northern Ireland's non-emergency calls. [165135]

Paul Goggins: 0845 600 8000 is the primary number for all non-emergency services. This provides a single contact number regardless of the caller's location. The calls are routed automatically to the most appropriate answer-point within the PSNI. This provides an effective response for non-emergency calls and there are no current plans to introduce additional geographic telephone numbers.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people called the Police Service of Northern Ireland's non-emergency telephone number in each of the past 12 months for which figures are available; and how much revenue was generated by the use of this number over the same period. [165136]

Paul Goggins: The number of calls made to the Police Service of Northern Ireland's non-geographic telephone number for non-emergency calls, "0845 600 8000", in each of the last 12 months is shown in the following table.

Month	*Number of calls to 0845 600 8000*
2006	
November	13,128
December	11,913
2007	
January	12,874
February	12,292
March	13,319
April	13,370
May	14,635
June	16,396
July	16,210
August	16,800
September	16,064
October	16,632

The PSNI contributes to the cost of calls made to this number and receives no revenue as a consequence of the use of this number.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of people deterred from calling the Police Service of Northern Ireland's non-emergency telephone number on account of the cost of calls. [165137]

Paul Goggins: It is important to make a distinction between emergency and non-emergency calls in order for incidents to be prioritised properly. There has been good uptake of the 0845 600 8000 non-emergency telephone number line; for example last month 16,632 members of the public used the service.

The levels of usage do not indicate that people are being deterred from making calls.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Vetting

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how long the Police Service of Northern Ireland took on average to carry out a criminal records check in each of the last 12 months; and how many requests for such were submitted in each such month. [165141]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI has advised that they are currently unable to provide accurate figures for vetting requests received prior to February 2007, due to technical difficulties. The PSNI is working to rectify this.

Once this is completed, I will write to the hon. Lady with a full response to her question.

Prisoners

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of *(a)* the likely prison population in Northern Ireland in each year until 2012 and *(b)* the number of places needed to accommodate it. [164390]

Paul Goggins: The current estimate for prisoner population used by the Northern Ireland Prison Service is based on a 5 per cent. increase up to 2009-10 and 4 per cent. thereafter and is shown in the following table.

	Projected average population
2007-08	1480
2008-09	1554
2009-10	1632
2010-11	1697
2011-12	1765
2012-13	1835

The Service currently has 1595 cells and plans to add a minimum of 180 additional places by end 2008-09.

On 21 February this year I asked the Prison Service to carry out an options appraisal on the development of the estate for holding adult male prisoners. I intend to make an announcement before the end of the year on the Service's plans to meet the accommodation needs of the updated projected population.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to move any of its offices to Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. [166569]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are no plans to move any of the offices of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to the Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last five years. [163705]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not hold central records of staff disciplined. The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Responsibility for managing sickness absence (including ensuring the effective monitoring of sickness absence levels) rests with line managers. They are supported with a robust sickness absence policy and that includes return to work interviews. The number of staff who had their employment terminated as a result of poor sick records are shown in the table:

	Number
2002-03	0
2003-04	1
2004-05	1
2005-06	1
2006-07	0

Gambling: Internet

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which remote gaming operators in respect of whom no legal proceedings are under way have been prosecuted for breach of section 42(1)(c) of the Gaming Act 1968. [163713]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There have been no prosecutions for breaches of section 42(1)(c) of the Gaming Act 1968.

Languages

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many French speakers his Department employs. [166185]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on which DCMS staff are French speakers is not held centrally. Providing accurate information on this would incur disproportionate cost.

Olympic Games 2012: Tourism

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what mechanisms are open to Faversham to advertise itself as a tourist destination in connection with the London 2012 Olympics. [165642]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* Local areas, such as those within Faversham and Mid Kent, which wish to market themselves as a tourism destination are advised to work with their Regional Development Agency and its regional tourism partners (in this case, the South East of England Regional Development Agency (SEEDA); Tourism South East; and Kent county council, working with the Kent Tourism Alliance). SEEDA, in collaboration with its partners, has developed a strategy for maximising the benefits of the Olympics in the region, "Compete, Create, Collaborate for a World Class Performance". This strategy focuses, for example, on the role of the region as a gateway to the UK and as a 'festival region' (thus taking full advantage of the Cultural Olympiad as well as existing festivals). Additionally, SEEDA and Tourism South East, with input from their sub-regional partners, including the Kent Tourism Alliance, will continue to work with VisitBritain by providing detailed content for its themed marketing campaigns and website. VisitBritain is currently developing its marketing and branding plans for 2012.

Religious Buildings: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many places of worship were restored for public use in each of the last three years. [164240]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* Comprehensive figures are not available for the number of places of worship restored for public use.

In England, Government funding for places of worship is targeted on the repair of those that are listed buildings. Such funding is disbursed via the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, and English Heritage's Grants for Cathedrals Scheme. The Repair Grants for Places of Worship Scheme is funded jointly by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund. A further contribution is made by other award streams operated by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The numbers of buildings in England assisted by each scheme are in the table. Some buildings will have received funding under more than one scheme or in more than one year.

	Buildings aided		
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Listed Places of Worship scheme	1,989	2,279	2,289
English Heritage/Heritage Lottery Fund joint scheme	250	212	225
English Heritage Grants for Cathedrals	24	20	26

	Buildings aided		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Other Heritage Lottery Fund support[1]	269	227	205

[1] Data are not available for all places of worship supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The figures provided refer to Christian buildings only.

Sports: Facilities

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the proportion of the population which is within 20 minutes of a multi-sport facility. [166736]

Mr. Sutcliffe: For the purposes of this commitment the Government have defined 'multi-sport' as access to at least two different sports facilities that are most in demand. In relation to 'good quality' there is no single nationally recognised measure that can be applied to all sports facilities. However, the Active Places sports facilities database (the main tool for measuring the commitment), holds information about the age of facilities and length of time since last refurbishment. We are using these figures as the measure of quality.

Using the Active Places database Sport England are undertaking strategic mapping of the Nation's sports facilities and we know that over 90 per cent. of people in England are within 20 minutes travel time of at least two different sports facilities that are most in demand by the public (swimming pools, playing fields, synthetic turf pitches, health and fitness centres, sports halls and golf courses). We know that, of the built sports facilities listed on Active Places: pools, halls, health and fitness and synthetic turf pitches, 65 per cent. have been built or refurbished in the last 10 years. We expect to see these positive figures maintained in future years.

The Government take the view that those in urban areas should be within 20 minutes walking distance of a multi-sport environment, while those in rural areas should be within 20 minutes driving distance by car. Urban and rural areas are defined using the "Rural and Urban Area Classification 2004: Introductory Guide", which was jointly published by The Countryside Agency, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Office for National Statistics, and the Welsh Assembly Government. The rural road travel times are based on the average road speeds derived from the Integrated Transport Network produced by Ordnance Survey. The urban walking catchments are based on a straightline 1.34km distance.

Television: Advertising

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the new restrictions published by Ofcom in February on television advertising of food and drink products to children. [166691]

James Purnell *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* We welcome the steps Ofcom have taken to strengthen the regulation in this area, with further restrictions on food advertising in programmes of appeal to children under 16 due to come into effect in 2008. Ofcom will be conducting its own review of the effectiveness and scope of these new rules in autumn 2008. The Government will shortly publish a stocktake report of the changes in the nature and balance of food advertising across all media since 2003. In addition, the Government will continue to work with Ofcom and other key stakeholders to ensure that restrictions are effective and appropriate.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* lone parent households with dependent children in each year since 1997. [166515]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the number of households and lone parent households with dependent children in England for each year since 1997.

		Thousand
	All households	Lone parent households with dependent children
1997	19,816	1,291
1998	19,924	1,335
1999	20,052	1,383
2000	20,222	1,433
2001	20,523	1,476
2002	20,720	1,524
2003	20,904	1,566
2004	21,062	1,591

The household figures for England are derived by the 2004-based household projection and estimation model using mid-year population figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The estimates predate ONS revisions to the populations released in August 2007.

Lone parent households contain a lone parent living with one or more dependent child, but no married or cohabiting couples. A dependent child is one aged 0-15; or aged 16-18, never married and in full time education.

Jobcentre Plus: ICT

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in improvements to Jobcentre Plus IT systems; and if he will make a statement. [163588]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 21 November 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what progress has been made in improvements to Jobcentre Plus IT systems. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Over the last 2 years, since introducing the Customer Management System (CMS) to improve the service provided to customers, Jobcentre Plus has listened hard to its staff and customers and put in place a number of measures (surveys,

performance monitoring and focus groups) to understand the shortcomings of its IT systems and facilities. We have worked with our IT suppliers using this feedback together with hard evidence on IT performance to instigate improvement programmes.

As a result we have:

implemented improvements to the Customer Management System to improve its usability, performance and reliability;

improved the underlying IT infrastructure to reduce the number of hardware and operating systems failures and therefore the amount of IT failures suffered by our front-line staff;

implemented increased bandwidth and improved PC infrastructure to improve response time and communication between offices;

implemented a single Customer Information System to bring together information on the people which we serve to improve our ability to re-use information;

implemented upgrades twice yearly to each of our major business systems to ensure they keep pace with the changing nature of our business; and

implemented a Fraud Management system which brings together consistent and accessible information to support our investigators in the continued battle against benefit fraud.

I hope this is helpful.

Low Incomes: Insurance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans are in place for people on benefits, low wages or with hire purchase schemes to receive assistance with the costs of contents and buildings insurance. [161893]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

The Government's recent financial inclusion strategy has highlighted the importance of insurance as a tool to help people to cope with financial pressure and plan for the future.

The Treasury has asked the Financial Inclusion Taskforce to work with the insurance industry and the Association of British Insurers to increase understanding of the problem of exclusion from insurance, and to identify potential policy responses.

The Taskforce will be reporting its initial findings to me shortly, and the Government will respond next month in its detailed action plan for financial inclusion.

Poverty: Children

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were defined as being in child poverty in Stroud constituency in each of the last 10 years. [163576]

Caroline Flint: The information is not available below the level of Government Office Region.

TREASURY

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which members of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit are working on the review of academies; what their remit is; and when the review will be completed. [166469]

Andy Burnham: The review of the academies programme is being jointly led by a number of officials in the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit in partnership with Treasury and DCSF officials in the academies group of the Department. Their remit is to review how the academies programme is meeting the objectives of turning around attainment in underperforming schools and how the programme is addressing a culture of underachievement and low aspirations in some of the most disadvantaged communities. The review will be completed before the end of the year.

Child Benefit: EC Nationals

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether EEA nationals living in the UK will be able to claim child benefit in respect of unborn children whose mother is living outside the UK from 2009 onwards. [165527]

Jane Kennedy: No—child benefit can only be claimed after the birth of a child. There is no provision for child benefit to be claimed before a child is born.

Child Care Tax Credit

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families *(a)* were eligible for and *(b)* claimed childcare tax credit in each year since its introduction; and if he will make a statement. [164834]

Jane Kennedy: Information on the take-up rate of the childcare element is not available.

Information on the average number of in-work families benefiting from the childcare element, based on final family circumstance and incomes, in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are published table 2.4 of the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Civil Servants: Durham

John Cummings: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many jobs have been relocated in County Durham as a result of the Gershon Review. [165902]

Andy Burnham: By June 2007 eight posts had been relocated out of London and the south east to County Durham as a result of the Lyons relocation programme.

Defence: Expenditure

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the evidence given by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and officials before the Treasury Select Committee on 22 October 2007, if he will place in the Library copies of all deflators used to calculate defence expenditure from 1997 onwards. [166639]

Andy Burnham: The Government calculate real terms public expenditure using the GDP deflator published at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and_tools/gdp_deflators/data_gdp_index.cfm

Departmental Public Participation

Nick Herbert: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on *(a)* citizens' juries, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other deliberative forms of public opinion research in each month since January 2006. [166589]

Angela Eagle: I refer to the answers given by my hon. Friend the then Financial Secretary (John Healey) to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 196W, and to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1495W. The workshops for the financial inclusion taskforce (per the answer of 4 December 2006) were invoiced in February to April 2006.

Engineering

Mr. Oliver: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual contribution of the engineering sector to the UK economy. [166267]

Angela Eagle: The average annual growth of output of the engineering and allied industries from 1997 to 2006 was 1.1 per cent. Total gross value added growth in 2006 was 3.8 per cent. and 0.14 percentage points of this was due to growth in the output of the engineering and allied industries. The industry employed 1.9 per cent. of the work force in 2006.

Housing: Prices

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what data sources relating to the value of homes his Department uses when formulating economic policy. [166289]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury uses a wide variety of data sources on the value of homes, including house price indices from the Department for Communities and Local Government, Halifax, Nationwide, the Land Registry, and others, for example internet based property listing firms. It also makes use of survey evidence from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Data on the overall value of the residential housing stock is available within the national accounts produced by the Office for National Statistics.

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what figures he holds on the *(a)* percentage of the population liable to inheritance tax in each EU member state and *(b)* the rate payable. [165435]

Jane Kennedy: The number of UK estates paying inheritance tax in each year is less than 0.1 per cent. of the population.

For the UK, it is estimated that, for those estates which passed on death in the year 2003-04 and for which probate was granted, 6 per cent. of the total value was paid in inheritance tax. The estimate excludes estates that were not notified for probate since that information is unavailable.

Estimates are not available for other EU member states.

Iraq Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many studies his Department has *(a)* started and *(b)* completed into the consequences of the Iraq war for his Department and lessons learnt; and if he will place copies in the Library. [165032]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 19 November 2007]*: The Treasury keeps a range of issues under continuous review, including the implications, for the Exchequer and the economy, of military operations in Iraq.

Lone Parents: Employment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of labour market participation was among lone parents in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland in each year since the introduction of working tax credit. [166592]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the labour market participation of lone parents. (166592)

The information requested is given in the attached table. The figures in the table are estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Economic activity[1] levels and rates for working-age[2] lone parents with dependent children[3], by area of residence

Thousand and percentage (not seasonally adjusted)

Three months ending June of each year	*Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland*	*North East*	*UK*
Economic activity levels (Thousand)[4]			
2003	2	51	1,051
2004	3	53	1,113
2005	3	55	1,142
2006	2	53	1,147
2007	4	48	1,162
Economic activity rates (Percentage)[5]			
2003	84	53	59
2004	89	61	60
2005	90	60	62
2006	82	62	63
2007	84	57	63

[1] Economically active people are those who are either employed or unemployed, as defined by the International Labour Organisation.
[2] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[3] Dependent children are children under 16 and those aged 16-18 who are never-married and in full-time education.
[4] Estimates have not been adjusted for people with unknown economic activity status.
[5] Economically active lone parents as a percentage of all lone parents. Base for percentages excludes people with unknown economic activity status.
Source:
Labour Force Survey household datasets

NHS: Housing

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether accommodation provided to junior doctors at a partial or fully subsidised rate by NHS trusts is eligible for tax as a benefit in kind. [164576]

Jane Kennedy: The same tax rules covering accommodation provided by an employer apply to junior doctors as to all employees. Whether there is a tax charge depends on the particular facts and circumstances in the light of the employment income tax rules.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether Foundation Year 1 doctors' accommodation costs are tax deductible. [164578]

Jane Kennedy: The same tax rules covering tax relief for accommodation costs apply to junior doctors as for all employees. The correct tax treatment will depend on the particular facts and circumstances in the light of the employment income expense rules.

NHS: Standards

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the investment-grade credit rating of *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* foundation trusts; and if he will make a statement. [164820]

Andy Burnham: HMT is not responsible for assessing the sustainability of individual NHS organisations. Monitor oversee the FT Sector by applying a proportionate regulatory regime which includes risk ratings on the financial performance of the FT Sector. Monitor publish these ratings (one to five) in quarterly reports on the performance of the FT Sector.

Office for National Statistics: Internet

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the route is from the opening page of the Office for National Statistics website to access the time series for the Household Savings ratio for users who *(a)* know and *(b)* do not know the series registration code; if he will take steps to improve the accessibility of the information; and if he will make a statement. [166196]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 November 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question on what the route is from the opening page of the Office for National Statistics website to access the time series for the Household Savings Ratio (NRJS) for users who *(a)* know and *(b)* do not know the series registration code. (166196)

The series for the Household Savings Ratio (NRJS in table A40 of the United Kingdom Economic Accounts is published quarterly and can be accessed from the Office for National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk

For users who know the specific time series, data can be accessed on the website by:

Clicking onto *time series data* under *quick links* on the left hand side of the homepage.

Under *time series data* click *access individual series.*

Scroll down the list of releases until you get to *United Kingdom Economic Accounts* and highlight this publication.

Under the box showing list of *releases* click *go* next to the box *view tables.*

Scroll down list of tables and highlight table *A40: Income and Capital: Households and non profit institutions serving households.*

Under the box showing list of *tables* click *go* next to the box *view series.*

Scroll down list of series and highlight series *NRJS :HN: Households saving ratio: CPSA.*

Under the box showing list of *series* click *go* next to the box *add series to selection.*

Click *go* next to the box *download.*

Click *go* next to the box *view on screen.* This will provide users with the data available for the series annually and quarterly.

It is recognised that it is not necessarily that easy for users who do not know the series identifier or its location within publications to identify the series on the website. On the website at the foot of the home page there is a 'contact us' section which gives details of an e-mail address and telephone number for users to ask questions.

The Office currently has a major project under way to review and improve its website, adopting the principles of user-centred design in order to ensure that it delivers the usability and functionality that its users require. The initial improvements to its website will focus on the area explaining the Office's new independent status following the passage of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 which comes into force in April 2008. Thereafter the intention is to roll out a programme of improvements across the statistical areas of the website by 2009.

Public Expenditure

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the operation of the Barnett formula; and if he will make a statement. [164566]

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an assessment of the continuing appropriateness of the Barnett formula. [165134]

Andy Burnham: The Barnett formula was updated in the comprehensive spending review. The latest version of the Barnett formula was published in the statement of funding policy by the Treasury on 9 October, which is available on the Treasury's website:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk.

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by the Government per head in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Yorkshire and Humberside region and *(c)* Greater London in each year since 2000. [165451]

Andy Burnham: Identifiable public spending per head in Scotland, Yorkshire and Humberside and London is set out in table 9.1 of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2007 (Cm 7091) in April 2007.

Skin Cancer

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether figures for five year survival rates for skin cancer will be made available, broken down by region. [165874]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking whether figures for five year survival rates, broken down by region, for skin cancer will be made available. (165874)

For England, five-year survival rates are available for adult patients (aged 15-99 years) diagnosed with skin cancer during 1999-2003 and followed up to the end of 2004, are given in Table 1. These rates are available on the National Statistics website.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14007&Pos=3&ColRank=1&Rank=422

The latest nationally comparable five-year survival rates for England, Government Office Regions and Strategic Health Authorities, are for patients (aged 15-99) diagnosed in 1997-99 and followed up to the end of 2004. These rates are available on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=11991. These sub-national analyses of survival from specific cancers are only routinely undertaken for eight cancers; those of bladder, breast (women), cervix, colon, lung, oesophagus, prostate and stomach. Equivalent figures are not available for skin cancer below national level, and there are no plans to produce these or equivalent figures for other cancer sites.

However, survival rates by socio-economic deprivation, trends in the rates, and NHS region for 58 cancers including skin cancer diagnosed during 1971-90 in England and Wales were published in *Cancer Survival Trends*[*] in 1999. Figures for skin cancer, broken down by region are given in Table 2.

Table 1: Five-year age-standardised[1] relative survival (%) for adults (15-99 years) diagnosed with melanoma of the skin[2] during 1999-2003, followed up to the end of 2004, England

	Number of patients	Five-year relative survival: Percentage	95% CI [3]
Men	13,196	80.4	(79.2-81.7)
Women	17,005	89.4	(88.5-90.3)

[1] As cancer survival varies with age at diagnosis, the relative rates for all ages (15-99) have been age-standardised to control for changes in the age profile of cancer patients over time, thus making them comparable with previously published figures.
[2] Melanoma of the skin is classified as code C43 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[3] 95% confidence intervals (CI).
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2: Five-year age-standardised[1] relative survival (%) for adults (15-99 years) diagnosed with melanoma of the skin[2] during 1986-1990, followed up to the end of 1995, England and NHS region

	Men	Women
England	68	82
Northern and Yorkshire	69	83
Trent	66	82
Anglia and Oxford	72	82
North Thames	66	83
South Thames	66	82
South and West	70	81
West Midlands	71	84
North and West	63	81

[1] As cancer survival varies with age at diagnosis, the relative rates for all ages (15-99) have been age-standardised to control for changes in the age profile of cancer patients over time, thus making them comparable with previously published figures.
[2] Melanoma of the skin is classified as code 172 in the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9).
Source:
Office for National Statistics
Table 4.5: Cancer survival trends by NHS region, selected cancers, patients diagnosed 1971-90: age-standardised relative survival rates (with 95% confidence intervals) at one and five years after diagnosis, and average increases in relative survival on the National Statistics website http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/xsdataset.asp?More=Y and published in:
* Coleman MP et al (1999) Cancer survival Trends in England-and Wales 1971-1995: deprivation and NHS region. Studies in Medical and Population Subjects No. 61. London: The Stationery Office.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the average aggregate annual cost to those required to complete stamp duty land tax returns of solicitors' work involved in completing such returns *(a)* in respect of all land transactions and *(b)* in respect of those land transactions in which no stamp duty land tax is payable. [165062]

Kitty Ussher: Research undertaken by KPMG for HMRC in 2006 suggested that the total annual burden to business of outsourcing the completion of the land transaction return to solicitors as about £25.5 million. Details of this can be found on the HMRC website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/better-regulation/kpmg.htm.

Of this, estimates suggest that 76 per cent. of returns are for transactions where no stamp duty land tax is payable. This is equivalent to 0.8 per cent. of the stamp duty land tax yield from non-residential property transactions in 2006-07.

The planned increase in the notification threshold announced in last month's pre-Budget report would reduce this cost by between £5 million to £6 million, or by approximately a fifth.

There are no estimates available for residential SDLT.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue which would come to the Exchequer by introducing a 5 per cent. band of stamp duty land tax for all properties over the value of *(a)* £700,000, *(b)* £750,000, *(c)* £800,000, *(d)* £850,000, *(e)* £900,000, *(f)* 950,000 and *(g)* £1,000,000 in 2008-09. [166355]

Kitty Ussher: The estimated revenue, in 2008-09, of restructuring stamp duty land tax according to the seven schemes proposed in this question (where each rate only applies to consideration above the threshold for each range) are described in the following table.

5 per cent. stamp duty threshold	*Additional revenue (£ million)*
(a) £700,000	1,540
(b) £750,000	1,500
(c) £800,000	1,470
(d) £850,000	1,440
(e) £900,000	1,420
(f) £950,000	1,390
(g) £1,000,000	1,370

These estimates do not include any allowance for behavioural changes.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of raising the zero band of stamp duty land tax for all properties to *(a)* £150,000, *(b)* £175,000, *(c)* £200,000, *(d)* £225,000 and *(e)* £250,000 in 2008-09. [166356]

Kitty Ussher: The estimated cost to the Exchequer, in 2008-09, of restructuring stamp duty land tax according to the five schemes proposed in this question (where each rate only applies to consideration above the threshold for each range) are described in the following table.

0 per cent. stamp duty threshold	*Exchequer cost (£ million)*
(a) £150,000	130
(b) £175,000	350
(c) £200,000	590
(d) £225,000	820
(e) £250,000	1,010

These estimates do not include any allowance for behavioural changes.

Suicide

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 242-43W, on suicide, how many of the deaths in *(a)* West Cornwall and Isles of Scilly constituency of St. Ives, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* the UK were suicides in each of the last 10 years. [166772]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking, pursuant to the Answer of 14th November 2007, Official Report, columns 242-243W, on suicide, how many deaths in (a) the West Cornwall and Isles of Scilly constituency of St Ives, (b) Cornwall and (c) the UK were suicides in each of the last 10 years. (166772)

The table below provides the number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, in (a) St Ives parliamentary constituency, (b) Cornwall county and (c) the UK, for 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death[1,2], (a) St Ives parliamentary constituency, (b) Cornwall county, and (c) the United Kingdom[3,4], 1997-2006[5]

			Deaths (persons)
	St Ives	*Cornwall*	*UK*
1997	12	74	5,816
1998	13	60	6,354
1999	11	63	6,255
2000	6	51	6,124
2001	14	60	5,932
2002	10	65	5,826
2003	11	59	5,731
2004	20	85	5,850
2005	23	62	5,671
2006	9	55	5,563

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 and E980-E989, excluding E988.8 for the years 1997 to 2000 for England and Wales, and for the years 1997 to 1999 for Scotland, and codes E950-E959 and E980-E989 for years 1997 to 2000 for Northern Ireland, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending) for the years 2001 to 2006 for England and Wales, and for the years 2000 to 2006 for Scotland, and codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34 for years 2001 to 2006 for Northern Ireland.
[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.
[3] Based on boundaries as of 2007.
[4] Figures for the UK include data provided by the Registrars General for Scotland and Northern Ireland.
[5] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Taxation: Construction Industry

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many CIS4 tax returns required further investigation in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [166625]

(2) how many applications for CIS4 status were refused in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [166626]

(3) how many people hold CIS4 status; [166627]

(4) how many people made a CIS4 tax return in the financial year 2006-07. [166628]

Jane Kennedy: Under the former construction industry scheme, which ceased on 5 April 2007, the CIS 4 was a registration card which a sub-contractor in the construction industry needed to produce to a contractor in order to be paid. HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) were required to issue a CIS 4 to anyone working, or intending to work, as a sub-contractor in the construction industry. There was no other qualifying test, so refusal was extremely rare. Any payment made by a contractor to a CIS 4 holder was subject to a deduction on account of tax which was paid over to HMRC by the contractor. There was no requirement for a tax return specifically connected with the CIS 4. At the close of the former scheme, there were some 1.9 million CIS 4 holders.

Unemployment: Young People

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people aged between 16 and 25 years were not in employment, education or vocational training in *(a)* 1990, *(b)* 1995, *(c)* 1997 and *(d)* 2000. [166733]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 November 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the number of people between the ages of 16 and 25 who are currently not in full-time education or training or in employment in (a) 1990, (b) 1995, (c) 1997 and (d) 2000. (166733)

Not seasonally adjusted and seasonally adjusted estimates for the educational status, economic activity and inactivity of young people are published each month in the Labour Market Statistics First Release in table 14, covering the UK for age groups, 16-17, 18-24, and 25 and over and are available at:

http://nswebcopy/downloads/theme_labour/LMS_FR_HS/WebTable14SA.xls

The attached table has been derived from the published seasonally adjusted table 14. It shows the number of people between the ages of 16 and 24, who are currently not in full-time education or training or in employment, for the three months ending September each year. These estimates are seasonally adjusted. Comparable estimates are not available for 1990.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Number of people between the age of 16 and 24, by gender who are currently not in full-time education[1] or training[1] or in employment[2] United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted, 1995, 1997, 2000

Thousand

Three months ending September each year	*All persons*	*Male*	*Female*
1995			
ILO unemployed	620	382	238
Economically inactive	651	162	489
Total	1,271	544	727
1997			
ILO unemployed	481	305	176
Economically inactive	560	131	429
Total	1,040	435	605
2000			
ILO unemployed	401	230	171
Economically inactive	572	170	402
Total	973	400	574

[1] Refers to people who are not in full-time education or training.
[2] People not in employment refers to those who are ILO unemployed or economically inactive.
Note:
Comparable estimates are not available for 1990.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

VAT: Fraud

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many civil value-added tax fraud cases were adopted for investigation in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [165284]

(2) what value of fines were imposed for value-added tax missing trader intra-community fraud in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [165285]

(3) what the average sentence was for those convicted of value-added tax missing trader intra-community fraud in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [165286]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 7 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1049W.

VAT: Registration

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many businesses have had a VAT registration application processed in *(a)* less than three months, *(b)* three to six months, *(c)* six to nine months and *(d)* nine to 12 months in each of the last three years; [166205]

(2) if he will make a statement on progress being made in reducing the time taken for verification of VAT registration applications. [166206]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not record processing times for the time scales requested.

The improvement measures that HMRC has put in place are starting to have an impact. In October 2007, the average processing time for VAT registration applications was 28 days and 45 per cent. of applications were processed within the 14 day target. This represents a significant improvement since August 2007 when the average processing time peaked at 42 days. This upturn has taken place against an operational background that continues to present challenges, and alongside the ongoing need to operate pre-registration checks against serious abuse such as Missing Trader Intra-Community (MTIC) fraud.

Video Games: Research

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to HM Revenue and Custom's press release of 1 November, how much of the £150 million allocated by HM Revenue and Customs research and development units has been allocated to companies in the computer games industry. [166738]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available.

Wealth

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the nation's wealth was owned by *(a)* the wealthiest 5 per cent, and *(b)* the poorest 5 per cent. of the population in each year since 1997. [166348]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates for the wealthiest 5 per cent. are published in table 13.5 on the HM Revenue & Customs website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal_wealth/menu.htm.

HM Revenue & Customs' methodology does not produce corresponding estimates for the poorest 5 per cent.

Welfare Tax Credits

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to make the system for claiming tax credits simpler. [163505]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for East Antrim (Sammy Wilson) earlier today (UIN 162340).

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will *(a)* simplify and *(b)* improve the comprehensibility to claimants of the procedures for claiming tax credits. [162340]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC is developing services to support customers through the claims process as a result of the tax credits transformation programme.

The improved support service already includes a new service which allows customers whose relationship has broken down to terminate their old joint claim and initiate a new single claim in one phone call, thereby simplifying the claims process at a time in their lives when they are most in need of the support tax credits provides.

Other service improvements soon to be piloted will focus on providing the right level of support to the right customer in order to make their experience of claiming as straightforward as possible. Different levels of support will be offered to ensure that customers receive the guidance they need to understand the claims procedure and get the tax credits payments they are entitled to as easily and quickly as possible.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of increase was of *(a)* child and *(b)* working tax credit in each year since 1997. [166574]

Jane Kennedy: Child and working tax credits were introduced in April 2003. Information on the rates of the child and working tax credit elements from 2003-04 to 2007-08 is produced in table 2.1 of HM Treasury's publication "Tax and Benefit Reference Manual", which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Welfare Tax Credits: Finance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on administering each type of tax credit in each year since 1997. [166818]

Jane Kennedy: The costs of managing and paying working families and disabled person's tax credits are shown in Annexe 1 of the Inland Revenue Annual Report (footnote to Note 3) for 1999-2000 and 2000-01, and in the Inland Revenue Trust Statements at Note 3 for 2001-02, and Note 4 for 2002-03. The costs of managing and paying the child and working tax credits in the financial years from 2003-04 appear in Note 3 of the annual Departmental Trust Statements.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that tax credit award notices are amended to provide more extensive details on overpayments. [164662]

Jane Kennedy: The tax credits award notice was revised from April 2006 to give the customer more information about entitlement, overpayments and recovery arrangements.

HM Revenue and Customs continue to keep the award notice under review.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was overpaid in tax credits in each financial year since 2003-04; and how much of this overpayment he expects to recover. [166665]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* Information relating to the recovery of overpayments of 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 tax credit awards is contained in Section 2, table 4, of the Comptroller and Auditor Generals Standard Report in the HM Revenue and Customs 2006-07 Accounts, which is available on the HMRC website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accounts2007.htm. Information on recovery of overpaid tax credits in 2006-07 will be published in the HM Revenue and Customs 2007-08 Accounts, which are due to be released in the summer of 2008.

Working Tax Credit: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Wales received working tax credits, broken down by *(a)* age group and *(b)* sex in the latest period for which figures are available. [162893]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows the estimated number of in-work families receiving the working tax credit in Wales, broken down by couples and singles, and by *(a)* age group and *(b)* sex, as at April 3rd 2007.

Number of in-work families receiving WTC (Thousand)

Age	*Couples*	*Singles*
Under 20	0.1	0.4
20-24	1.8	4.0
25-29	5.3	8.9
30-34	7.1	9.4
35-39	9.6	12.9
40-49	16.7	20.0
50-59	8.1	6.3
60 and over	2.7	0.8
Total	51.4	62.6
Sex		
Female sole worker[1]	8.0	—
Male sole worker[1]	28.3	—
Both adults in work[1]	15.1	—
Female	—	53.1
Male	—	9.5

[1] "Sole Worker" is defined as an adult working at least 16 hours per week with second adult not in work.

Note:
The age used for couples is that of the eldest adult.

HMRC is currently running a campaign focused on 35 areas of the UK, including parts of Wales, with the aim of increasing take-up. The campaign runs from 29 October until 25 November and uses a combination of radio advertising and door drops.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Railways

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what railway construction projects are *(a)* planned and *(b)* under way in Afghanistan. [166755]

Mr. Malik: Many bulk commodities are brought by rail to Afghanistan's borders and then transported by truck around the country. In early 2006 Afghanistan began work on a railway project connecting Hirat city to the Iranian border at Sangan. 60 per cent. of the project is funded by the Iranian Government. Discussion is under way on constructing lengthier railways in Afghanistan. However, there needs to be a very careful economic cost-benefit analysis of any major railway investments to ascertain whether this is the best use of investment resources as compared with other priority investments.

The Government of Afghanistan plan to focus on improving roads and airports as priority areas of transport over the next five to 10 years, as outlined in the draft Afghanistan National Development Strategy (AMDS) transport sector plan. Railhead transfer stations at the borders are likely to be improved so that the cost of changing freight from trains to trucks is lowered, thus lowering the cost of Afghanistan's international trade.

Afghanistan: Roads

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many kilometres of metalled road have been constructed in *(a)* Helmand Province and *(b)* Afghanistan since 2001. [166756]

Mr. Malik: We do not have detailed information on the number of kilometres of metalled road constructed in Helmand Province since 2001. However, we are aware of USAID funding for 8 km of metalled road between Lashkar Gah City and Qala-i-Bost and 40 km of metalled road between Lashkar Gah City and the Duari Junction on the provincial border with Kandahar Province. In addition to this, the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) have funded 5.2 km of metalled road in the Lashkar Gah District Centre. Under the DFID supported Helmand Agricultural and Rural Development Programme (HARD-P), 49 km of roads has almost been completed in Lashkar Gah, including Bolan Road (12 km); Qala-i-Bost (14 kms); Lashkari Bazar (8 kms) and Sarkar (17 kms). However, these are not metalled roads as they do not provide the best value for money. The current preferred surface option for the majority of rural access roads is the double bituminous surface treatment (DBST) method.

At the national level, nearly 1,500 km of the 4,900 km national (secondary) road network, and several thousand kilometres of tertiary roads, all with gravel surfaces, have been improved. By June 2007, about 2,500 km of the original 2,900 km of paved regional road network had been reconstructed or rehabilitated to national standards and paved with asphalt concrete.

Departmental Hospitality

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to ensure that English wine is served exclusively or at the request of guests at meals, parties and receptions hosted by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [164294]

Mr. Malik: All public procurement procedures must comply with the EC Treaty. The key principles of the Treaty, from a public procurement point of view, are the free movement of goods and services, and non-discrimination on the grounds of nationality. This legislation is designed to ensure that all public procurement across the European Union is fair, transparent and non-discriminatory.

This means that DFID cannot specify that it will only buy goods (e.g. wine) from a particular country or locality, as that would discriminate against producers from other EU member states.

Departmental Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained (A) temporary and (B) permanent jobs in his Department in 2007. [165111]

Mr. Malik: DFID complies with Age Legislation introduced on 1 October 2006 and does not ask people to disclose their age when they apply to work with DFID. However, after selection every new starter completes a personal data form which includes an age field and this information is recorded in our personal information management system.

The number of temporary and permanent staff joining DFID in 2007 broken down into age groups is as follows:

Starters in 2007

Age	*Temporary staff*	*Permanent staff*	*Total*
30 to 39	15	22	37
40 to 49	4	14	18
50 to 59	5	4	9
60 to 69	0	0	0
Total	24	40	64

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what entertainment or hospitality members of the Department's management board have received in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [164741]

Mr. Malik: Paragraph 4.3.5 of the Civil Service Management Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by

members of departmental boards. The first list for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the current calendar year.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to publish his Department's autumn performance report. [164869]

Mr. Malik: DFID's autumn performance report is expected to be published in the week beginning 10 December 2007.

Iraq Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many studies his Department has *(a)* started and *(b)* completed into the consequences of the Iraq war for his Department and lessons learnt; and if he will place copies in the Library. [165030]

Mr. Douglas Alexander *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* There has been no formal or specific study into the consequences for DFID of the conflict in Iraq.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what annual rate is being charged by his Department to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the use of the official ministerial residence of the Admiralty House flat by Lord Malloch Brown. [165906]

Edward Miliband: Details of payments made in 2007-08 will be available when the Department's resource accounts for the year are fully audited and laid before Parliament.

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [164165]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the list being drawn up of departmental assets planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11, including the *(a)* description, *(b)* book value and *(c)* expected revenue from sale of each such asset. [164775]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office is currently engaged in identifying assets which could be potentially sold. This work is ongoing and for the later years, may not be finalised until nearer the relevant date.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many applicants for information, requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, to his Department requested an internal review in cases where the request had been turned down, in each year since the Act came into force; what the *(a)* average, *(b)* longest and *(c)* shortest time taken was to conduct an internal review in that period; and what was the total cost of such reviews in that period. [165154]

Edward Miliband: Data on the performance of central Government Departments under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 are available on the Ministry of Justice website at: http://www.foi.gov.uk/reference/statisticsandreports.htm. Copies are also available in the Libraries of the House.

The information requested in relation to the cost of conducting internal reviews could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he expects to publish *(a)* his Department's and *(b)* No. 10 Downing Street's autumn performance report. [164877]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Office intends to produce its autumn performance report 2007 (APR) to the timetable set by HM Treasury. The deadline set this year by HM Treasury for Departments to produce their APR is prior to 15 December 2007. There is not a separate APR produced by No. 10 Downing street.

Google

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Cabinet Office has made payments to Google in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [165547]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Office has not made any payments to Google in the last 12 months.

Pensions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what legal advice has been commissioned on the pension claim by the former Lord Chancellor, Lord Falconer; and how much has been spent on commissioning advice. [164222]

Edward Miliband: Information relating to internal discussion and advice is not disclosed.

Voluntary Organisations: Computer Software

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the proportion of the voluntary sector organisations using Linux Open Source computer software; and if he will make a statement. [165145]

Gillian Merron: This information is not collated centrally.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Public Participation

Peter Luff: To ask the Leader of the House why no organisations from the West Midlands are listed in Annex 1 of the Government's Draft Legislative Programme—Taking a Wider View as having participated in regional consultation events. [165955]

Mr. Vara: To ask the Leader of the House how many responses the Government received to its consultation on the Draft Legislative Programme; and how many of those responses were received via the Leader of the House's website. [166035]

Helen Goodman: The consultation on the draft legislative programme was made up of a number of events and activities. Debates were held in both Houses of Parliament, copies were sent to a wide number of stakeholders, Regional Ministers organised 11 events around England at which over 250 organisations were represented, and a National Workshop was held in London which was attended by 76 members of the public from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. In addition the Draft Legislative Programme was published on the Cabinet Office and Leader of the House of Commons website. 106 responses were received in writing or by email and 30 were received by the Leader of the House of Commons' website. The Leader of the House of Commons published "The Government's Legislative Programme—Taking a wider view" on 14 November 2007 which summarised the activity that had taken place this year.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Leader of the House what steps she took to consult *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* businesses in the West Midlands on the Government's draft legislative programme published in July 2007; which organisations in the West Midlands were contacted about the programme; and if she will make a statement. [166636]

Helen Goodman: The Draft Legislative Programme and other issues of key concern to the West Midlands have been discussed by the Minister for the West Midlands with the following individuals and stakeholders since August 2007:

Organisation

Advantage West Midlands
Armac Manufacturing Ltd.
Arts Council England
Audiences Central
Big Lottery Fund
Birmingham Chamber International Trade Team
Birmingham City Council
Birmingham City University
Birmingham Conservatoire
Birmingham Forward
Birmingham Post
Black Country Consortium
Blitz Games
Cabinet Member for Economic and Community Issues with Hereford Council
CBI WM
CBSO
CEO Advantage West Midlands (AWM)
Chairman North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership Development Group
Chairman of Dermal Technology Laboratory (DTL Ltd.)
Chairman of Rural Affairs Forum
Chamber of Commerce Herefordshire and Worcestershire
Aspire Housing
Newcastle Borough Council
North Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce
Staffordshire County Council
Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Telford and Wrekin Council
Transforming Telford
City Regions
Cobbetts
Concordia
Corporate Director AWM
Corporate Director, Adult and Consumer Care, Telford and Wrekin Council
Corporate Director, Community Services, Telford and Wrekin Council
Corporate Director, Environment and Regeneration, Telford and Wrekin Council
Corporate Director, Resources, Telford and Wrekin Council
County of Herefordshire District Council
Coventry University
CSP-Birmingham
Culture West Midlands
Delivery Director AWM
Deputy Leader, Telford and Wrekin Council
Deputy Vice-chancellor, Staffordshire University and NSRP Board Member
Director-Polytec Holden Ltd.
Economic portfolio for Herefordshire Local Authority
Elected Mayor Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Engineering Services, Telford and Wrekin Council
English Heritage
Environmental Officer
Executive Director of Business Development Beth Johnson Housing Association
External Development Officer-Keele University
Fierce Festival
First Light Movies
Government Office for the West Midlands
Groundwork Stoke-on-Trent and NSRP Board Member
Head of Keele University Science Park
Head of Mobility and Development, Telford and Wrekin Council
Head of Policy, Resources and Social Regeneration, Children and Young People, Telford and Wrekin Council
Hereford and Worcester Chamber of Commerce
Herefordshire County Chairman
Heritage Lottery Fund
Housing Corporation and representing NSRP Board Member
Institute of Asian Business
IoD Young Directors
Ironbridge Gorge Museum
Jonas Roy [illegible]om
Key Attractions Group
Leader of Hereford Council

Leader of the Labour Group
Leader of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Council
Leader, Newcastle Borough Council
Leader, Staffordshire County Council
Leader, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Leader, Telford and Wrekin Council
Mac
Managing Director Holden
Aluminium Technologies Ltd.
Managing Director Hydro Logic Ltd.
Managing Director Wilkins
Chartered Surveyors Ltd.
Managing Director Wye Valley Brewery Ltd.
Managing Director Canefield Ltd.
Managing Director of Dermal Technology Laboratory (DTL Ltd.)
Managing Director of North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership
Managing Director Urban Splash-Midlands
Managing Director, Waterworld and NSRP Board Member
Marketing Birmingham
Mediabox
Micron Sprayers Ltd.
Moflash Signalling Ltd.
Museums, Libraries and Archives West Midlands
Natural England
NFU Regional Chairman
NFU Regional Director and Vice Chair of the RAF
Pinsent Masons
Play England
Political Assistant to Mayor Meredith
Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Older People
Portfolio Holder for Business, Enterprise, and Development
Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services
Portfolio Holder for Environment
Portfolio Holder for Public Safety and Organisational Development
Portfolio Holder for Regeneration
Portfolio Holder for Resources and Finance
Prime-Med Healthcare
Principal at the City of Stoke on Trent Sixth Form College
Programme Manager RENEW North Staffordshire North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership
Regional Assembly Regional Co-ordinator, Keele University
Regional Director, North West and West Midlands English Partnership
Regional Horticultural Chairman
Regional Livestock Chairman
Representing Hereford on the NFU National Council and a farmer from the west of the county
RSC
Screen West Midlands
Secretary and Registrar, Keele University and NSRP Board Member
Serious Games Institute
Shakespeare Country
Shropshire County Council
Sport England
Sport England West Midlands
Staffordshire Police Chief Executive
Steve Welling's Office Manager Telford and Telford and Wrekin Council
Stoke Press Officer
Stoke-on-Trent City Council and NSRP Board Member
Stoke-on-Trent Locality Manager for GOWM
Stoke-on-Trent PCT
StreetGames
Supporting officer Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Supporting officer Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Telford and Wrekin Council
Telford Constituency
The Drum
Tourism West Midlands
Transforming Telford
UK Trade and Investment
Vice Chancellor Keele University
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Warwick Arts Centre
West Midlands Business Council
West Midlands LGA/RA
West Midlands Network of Rural Community Councils representing Voluntary and Community Sector
West Midlands Regional Assembly
West Midlands Regional Observatory
Worcestershire County Council

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Companies Act 2006

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whom his Department consulted before he decided to delay the implementation of certain provisions of the Companies Act 2006 to 1st October 2009; and how such consultation was conducted. [166764]

Mr. Timms: The Government's decision to delay final implementation of the Companies Act 2006 was taken in the light of advice from the Registrar of Companies that he cannot be absolutely confident of implementing the necessary changes to Companies House systems and processes by October 2008. We did not carry out external consultation before making this announcement because this could not have affected the advice to Ministers from the Registrar of Companies. We are however consulting key stakeholders about the commencement date for provisions, such as those relating to the general duties of directors in respect of conflicts of interest, which do not necessitate changes to Companies House systems and processes.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the financial effect on companies as a result of the change in the proposed date for the implementation of provisions of the Companies Act 2006 from 1 October 2008 to 1 October 2009. [166488]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* The Government recognise that companies need clarity about the commencement timetable for the Companies Act 2006 so that they can make proper preparation for

full implementation. In particular, we wished to avoid companies making changes to their articles of association in the 2008 annual general meeting season in a way which would have required them to hold an extraordinary general meeting if the commencement timetable were changed next year. The Government have therefore decided, in the light of advice from the Registrar of Companies that he cannot be absolutely confident of implementing the necessary changes to Companies House systems and processes by October 2008, to announce a change to the timetable now so that companies do not incur unnecessary costs.

Nuclear Power: Security

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with the Director of the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) on the problems reported in OCNS annual reports on the adequacy of security vetting in the civil nuclear industry. [165155]

Malcolm Wicks: In his annual reports, the Director of the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (DCNS) reports among other things on trends in vetting demand and the performance of the OCNS Vetting Office in issuing security clearances for permanent employees and contractors in the civil nuclear industry. In the last three years, there has been an unprecedented demand for new clearances in the industry and many existing clearances have become due for review. This increased demand coincided with a period of high staff turnover in 2004-05 and backlogs accrued. In each of the last two years, however, the OCNS Vetting Unit has produced a very strong performance which has met this increased demand and cleared most of the outstanding work relating to the routine review of existing clearances. DCNS is confident that all this latter work will be complete by 31 March 2008.

Post Offices: Heswall

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had on the proposed closure of Heswall village post office. [166397]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* None. The Government do not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices and final decisions on which post offices will close will be taken by Post Office Ltd. (POL) in light of the responses received to the area consultations.

Renewable Energy: EU Countries

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information his Department holds on the percentage of electricity generated from renewable sources of energy in each of the EU member states *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the most recent date for which information is available. [163343]

Malcolm Wicks: Electricity from renewable energy as a percentage of gross electricity consumption is published by Eurostat. The information for 1997 and 2005 is as follows. 2005 is the latest year for which such information is available for all member states:

	1997	Percentage 2005
Cyprus	—	—
Malta	—	—
Estonia	0.1	1.1
Belgium	1.0	2.8
Poland	1.8	2.9
Luxembourg	2.0	3.2
Lithuania	2.6	3.9
United Kingdom	1.9	4.3
Czech Republic	3.5	4.5
Hungary	0.6	4.6
Ireland	3.8	6.8
Netherlands	3.5	7.5
Greece	8.6	10.0
Germany	4.3	10.5
France	15.2	11.3
Bulgaria	7.0	11.8
Italy	16.0	14.1
Spain	19.7	15.0
Portugal	38.3	16.0
Slovakia	14.5	16.5
Slovenia	26.9	24.2
Finland	25.3	26.9
Denmark	8.8	28.2
Romania	30.5	35.8
Latvia	46.7	48.4
Sweden	49.1	54.3
Austria	67.2	57.9
EU (27 countries)	13.1	14.0

Source:
Eurostat http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Belarus: Human Rights

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government intend to make representations on alleged abuses of the criminal justice system by the Government of Belarus to that government. [166174]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government remain deeply concerned by abuses of the criminal justice system in Belarus by its government. The UK and other EU member states do not have ministerial level contact with the regime in Belarus: we regularly make representations through our embassies on human rights concerns.

Burma: Sanctions

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is Government policy to support further EU action against the Burmese regime by imposing EU sanctions in the oil and gas sectors; and when he last discussed the subject with his French counterpart. [165583]

Dr. Howells: EU partners are in general agreement that any new measures should be targeted towards sources of revenue for the regime. The UK would, therefore, be prepared to consider additional measures that would include the oil and gas sector. Whether these new measures are brought against the Burmese regime depends on the regime's willingness to allow a real political transition to begin.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last discussed the subject with his French counterpart at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council, which took place on 15 October. Since then Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have been in regular contact with their French counterparts on this issue.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is Government policy to support *(a)* further UN sanctions and *(b)* economic incentives in relation to the Burmese regime; and which option the UK's partners on the UN Security Council favour. [165991]

Dr. Howells: The Government support the use of targeted sanctions against the Burmese regime. We expect to secure an amended EU Common Position at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 19-20 November, extending EU sanctions against Burma.

The Government fully support the efforts of the UN to bring about meaningful political dialogue and national reconciliation in Burma. The Government also recognise that there is a role for economic initiatives, conditional on progress with reconciliation and democracy. To that end, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister wrote to the UN Secretary-General on 16 October outlining the case for the international community to pursue such an economic initiative. There is broad support within the UN for maintaining all forms of pressure on the regime for change.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in his Department and its agencies. [165238]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and its agencies has 12 full-time equivalent staff responsible for brand management and marketing. This includes FCO Services, UKvisas, Consular Directorate, and Wilton Park.

Developing Countries: Politics and Government

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will set out his strategy to strengthen democratic capacity in developing nations over the next three years. [165587]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 21 November 2007]*: The UK is committed to promoting democratic principles and values around the world. Our approach is grounded in our upholding universal human rights standards to which all countries are bound as well as giving support to democratic institutions, good governance and the rule of law. Democracy is built on rights such as freedom of expression, assembly, association, movement and information.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) supports democratic capacity through:

supporting relevant initiatives in international organisations like the UN, EU, African Union, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Commonwealth;

promoting a common approach to good governance in international bodies and helping to mainstream good governance in development co-operation;

encouraging fair electoral processes, including through support for effective international electoral observations missions and follow up;

contributing to the European Instrument on Democracy and Human Rights;

lobbying and supporting governments to develop pluralist political systems and effective parliamentary institutions;

promoting freedom of expression, including support for free media; and

supporting partnerships with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), human rights defenders and professional bodies and participation of civil society in decision making.

We do this through our network of missions around the world as well as through international organisations and the EU, and with NGOs and civil society. We also support the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, through £4.1 million grant-in-aid in this financial year.

Further information on the Government's work on human rights, democracy and governance can be found in the FCO's 2006 Annual Report on Human Rights, which is on the FCO's website: www.fco.gov.uk. Copies of the report are also available in the Libraries of both Houses. In addition, the FCO and Department for International Development (DFID) jointly launched a DFID publication this summer, entitled "Governance, Development and Democratic Politics" which highlighted the value the Government place on democratic politics as a set of principles and values which ensure that differences can be negotiated peacefully, and the views of all heard.

Employment Tribunal Service

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [164496]

Dr. Howells: Between July 2006 and June 2007 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office paid £134,445 in legal costs in relation to employment tribunal claims.

Entry Clearances: Biometrics

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he expects the targets to record biometrics for *(a)* most visa applicants by the end of 2007 and *(b)* all by the end of 2008 will be met. [166094]

Dr. Howells: Our commitment is to collect biometric data from all visa applicants by the end of March 2008. We fully expect to deliver this by, or before, March 2008.

We expect to be collecting biometric data from most visa applicants by the end of 2007. We are currently collecting biometric data from all visa applicants in 115 countries, including China, Russia, Nigeria and Pakistan. On completion, we will be collecting biometric data from all visa applicants in all 135 countries where visas are issued or applications accepted.

EU Reform: Treaties

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Government's policy on the proposals in the draft EU Reform Treaty on the presidency of the European Council. [165757]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK strongly supports a full-time President of the European Council serving for two and a half years in place of the current system where the President of the European Council changes every six months. The President of the European Council will be chosen by and accountable to the leaders of national governments. A full-time Chair of the European Council will bring greater coherence and consistency to the EU's actions; and will give member states greater capacity to give direction and momentum to the EU's agenda.

Gaza: Travel Restrictions

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will give an assessment of the changes made to the access arrangements to and from the Gaza Strip since 14 June. [165971]

Dr. Howells: Since Hamas seized control of Gaza on 14 June, the majority of crossings into Gaza have remained closed. As of 12 November, only two crossings into Gaza are operating: Kerem Shalom: for humanitarian aid and commercial supplies; and Erez: for personnel movement (workers and traders) to and from Israel and the West Bank. The Erez crossing opening hours have, however, been reduced.

There is a pressing economic and humanitarian need to overcome the obstacles to re-opening Gaza's crossings. The Quartet (US, EU, UN and Russia) has expressed concern over the continued closure of major crossing points. The UN is actively involved in trying to find a solution. The EU has called on all parties to work towards an opening of the crossings in and out of Gaza. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised this issue on his recent visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on 17 and 18 November.

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his comments of 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 405, on the Debate on the address, whether in his assessment the access and egress arrangements for the local population in Gaza were satisfactory before 14 June. [166316]

Dr. Howells: As my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Margaret Beckett) said in a written answer to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) on 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 242W.

"It is essential that progress is made on movement and access in, and between, the West Bank and Gaza and security sector transformation to ensure a viable future Palestinian state. This requires the active engagement of both parties. In the meantime, we will continue to call upon both parties to implement their commitments under the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access and support US Security Co-ordinator General Dayton's plans on security sector transformation."

We have regularly called on both parties to implement the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access. The 23 April EU General Affairs External Relations Council recalled

"the utmost importance of the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access. It urges that Rafah and all other crossing points, notably Kami, be reopened and remain open".

Iran: Sanctions

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on sanctions against Iran; and what the role of the House is in the formulation of any such policy in relation to the use of the armed forces. [165968]

Dr. Howells: As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said in his Guildhall speech on 12 November, Iran has a choice—confrontation with the international community leading to a tightening of sanctions or, if it changes its approach, a transformed relationship with the world. Iran has so far chosen to continue with its nuclear proliferation-sensitive activities, as the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency's latest report (on 15 November) makes clear. In response, we must increase the pressure on Iran to persuade it to comply with its international obligations. The UK will work for a further sanctions resolution at the UN Security Council as well as EU and unilateral measures, ranging from prohibitions on investment in oil and gas sectors, to denying Iran access to export credit finance.

While the House has no formal role in formulating Iran sanctions policy, both my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I set great store by the views of the House. We answer regular parliamentary questions and stay in close touch with the Foreign Affairs Committee (FAC). I will be giving evidence before the FAC myself later this month following its visit this month to Iran.

Kosovo

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to meet with his Serbian counterpart to discuss the status of Kosovo. [165840]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the Kosovo status process with Vuk Jeremic, Minister of Foreign Affairs, when they met in London on 18 September 2007. We maintain a regular dialogue with the authorities in Belgrade on the Kosovo status process.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of whether the *(a)* Government of Israel and *(b)* Palestinian Authority have accepted the roadmap. [166001]

Dr. Howells: The roadmap was presented to, and agreed by, both parties in April 2003. Israel has indicated 14 reservations. These reservations focus primarily on the Palestinian Authority taking action on security and the importance of the US playing a monitoring role. Israel also emphasised that any action it might take on freedom of movement would be subject to security conditions.

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likelihood of the peace talks scheduled for Annapolis in November being attended by those countries whose territory is occupied by Israel; and if he will make a statement. [166317]

Dr. Howells: The US and Israel have indicated that they would be willing for Syria to attend the Annapolis meeting. We support their position. It will be for the Syrians to decide whether or not to attend. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch Brown, and I met the Syrian Deputy Prime Minister, Abdullah Dardari on 8 November, during which we encouraged Syria to engage constructively in the meeting.

The meeting in Annapolis will be key to moving the peace process forward. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister told the House on 8 October, *Official Report*, column 24

"we would like to see an agreement that puts the Israelis and Palestinians on a path to real negotiations in 2008, leading to a final settlement of two states living side by side in peace and security."

National Security

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-86 on national security, on what projects the Foreign Office's share of the £400 million allocated to tackling radicalisation and promoting understanding overseas will be spent; and if he will make a statement. [165836]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 21 November 2007]:* As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said in his statement to the House on 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-672, the Government will report back on action overseas with other countries to counter extremism when we launch the full national security strategy.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last held discussions with his Pakistani counterpart on the political situation in Pakistan. [165646]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary called former Foreign Minister Kasuri most recently on 5 November to discuss the situation in Pakistan. He spoke to the then Prime Minister Aziz on 5 November. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, spoke to the then Prime Minister Aziz on 12 November.

Palestinians: Travel Restrictions

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Government of Israel on roadblocks, checkpoints and other restrictions on movement within the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and on which occasions such representations have been made formally since the Mecca agreement of 8 February 2007. [165993]

Dr. Howells: The implementation of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access stalled following the election of Hamas in January 2006. We continue to call on both the Israelis and the Palestinians to implement the agreement. We have repeatedly raised our concerns about movement and access with the Government of Israel. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised this issue on his recent visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on 17 and 18 November.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Sri Lankan Government on the situation in that country. [166024]

Dr. Howells: My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, last met the Sri Lankan Minister for Foreign Affairs, Rohitha Bogollagama, on 12 November in London. They also met in September in New York. In these meetings, the overriding message delivered by my noble Friend was to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to act with much greater urgency to find a lasting political solution and to avoid a descent into war.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Governments of other EU member states on Sri Lanka. [166025]

Dr. Howells: EU member states met in Brussels on 15 November to discuss the situation in Sri Lanka. We shall continue to stay in close contact with EU member states and the European Commission.

Uganda: Human Rights

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that the issues of *(a)* human rights, *(b)* corruption and *(c)* attacks on the judiciary and the press are on the agenda of the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [165858]

Dr. Howells: I can confirm that my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary will discuss these issues at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour: Young People

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the costs of the pilots for good behaviour youth cards announced on 8 March 2006 were; and if she will make a statement. [164853]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The intention to pilot a youth opportunity card in 10 local authority areas was announced on 8 March 2006 as part of the Youth Matters: Next Steps. The project focused on enabling disadvantaged young people to take part in positive activities that many young people take for granted by giving them the means to pay for activities. In February 2007 we announced that we would not be proceeding with the pilots because uncertainties around the delivery solution and the potential costs meant that value for money could not be assured. The total cost of the youth opportunity card project, from December 2005 to February 2007, was £2.4 million.

The work carried out on the youth opportunity card has provided a solid foundation from which to build, and we have continued to work with nine of the pilot local authorities to develop alternative ways of empowering disadvantaged young people to take part in positive activities of their choice. In September I announced that these nine authorities will be piloting different approaches to giving individual disadvantaged young people spending power to pay for positive activities of their choice. All nine pilots are currently expected to start by April 2008 and run until March 2009.

Asylum: Children

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evidence of costs incurred is taken into account by her Department in setting the level of grants to local authorities for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. [165418]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 November 2007]*: The basis of the grant payment made to local authorities in respect of unaccompanied asylum seeking children is set out in the Home Office grant instructions for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library.

Asylum: Surrey

Mr. Mallin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children seeking asylum are resident in Surrey. [166177]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records, only at disproportionate cost.

Statistics on the location of asylum seekers in the UK are linked to the available information on the support that the asylum seeker receives. The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support are available broken down by Government office region, local authority and parliamentary constituency.

Cannabis: Misuse

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests of cannabis users were made in each of the last 10 years; and what she estimates the cost to police resources was of making these arrests in each police force area. [165678]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. The arrests collection undertaken by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform provides data only on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, drugs offences etc. More detailed data about specific offences do not form part of this collection.

Custody Plus Scheme

Mr. Mallin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to introduce the custody plus provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. [166190]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

No decision has yet been taken as to when custody plus will be introduced.

Data Protection: Passengers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* airlines, *(b)* ferry operators and *(c)* international rail service operators will be required to provide passenger name record information (i) as a matter of course and (ii) upon request from March 2008; and if she will make a statement. [163850]

Mr. Byrne: Legislation will shortly be introduced to require carriers to provide travel document information (TDI) together with passenger name record data (PNR) (otherwise known as other passenger information (OPI)) to e-Borders to the extent that it is known to the carrier.

From March 2008 those carriers which provide OPI data under existing arrangements to Project Semaphore, the e-Borders pilot project, will be expected to continue to do so. The Government have funded transmission and transaction costs together with some systems change costs of participation in this pilot. Analysis of both OPI and TDI data have delivered significant operational benefits to border agencies, contributing to the arrest of individuals wanted for offences including murder, drug smuggling, rape and assault; and has led to the seizure of counterfeit travel documents, drugs and contraband. This arrangement however, was always with the understanding that the funding would cease in March

2008 and we will continue to fulfil our undertaking to industry to meet these costs until then.

The e-Borders Programme will cover the majority of passenger movements by 2009 and is committed to using all reasonable efforts to achieve a fair and equitable roll-out. This will be implemented progressively, in a consultative and collaborative manner with carriers and port operators.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours (i) in the Department and (ii) the executive agencies for which the Department is responsible. [164318]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office recognises that all staff need to find a balance between their work and home life and the Department promotes flexible working as part of a range of work life balance options for staff. The option of working flexibly is open to all staff, including those staff with a statutory right to request a flexible working pattern on the basis that they are either working parents or carers.

Applications are subject to local management agreement, based on a number of factors including the particular circumstances of the request and the business and operational needs of the department.

Information about the number of individuals who make applications to work flexibly is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However the overall number of staff working flexibly is held centrally and the figures for the Home Office, the Border and Immigration Agency, Criminal Records Bureau and the Identity and Passport Service are set out in the following table .

All members of staff have the opportunity to use the Department's and agencies' flexi time systems.

Staff numbers as at 31 October 2007	*Home Office HQ*	*Border and Immigration Agency*	*Identity and Passport Service*	*Criminal Records Bureau*
Total staff	3,834	19,741	4,114	446
Staff working flexibly	380	3,250	1,279	64

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultations undertaken by her Department have not been open to the public in the last year. [164792]

Mr. Byrne: Public consultation exercises run by the Home Office follow the Government's code of practice on consultation which sets out the basic principles for conducting effective formal written consultations. When undertaking such consultations we often engage proactively with individuals, organisations and trade associations. As the code explains, written formal consultations are not the only or even always the most effective means of consultation. Other forms of informal consultation such as stakeholder meetings, focus groups, regional events may help in this process. A list of the public consultations undertaken this year can be found at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/haveyoursay/

www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/lawandpolicy/consultationdocuments/

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what entertainment or hospitality members of the Department's management board have received in each of the last three financial years; and if she will make a statement. [164736]

Mr. Byrne: Paragraph 4.3.5 of the Civil Service Management Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by members of departmental boards. The first list for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the current calendar year.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 24 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 346W, on entry clearances, whether she plans to collect and collate data on applications for indefinite leave to remain for individuals on a *(a)* constituency basis and *(b)* local authority area basis; and if she will make a statement. [163103]

Mr. Byrne: As part of the Border and Immigration Agency's transition to full Agency status (and notwithstanding the announcement on 13 November about the creation of the new UK Border Agency), it has begun to make more data available to its partners, including local authorities to help them deliver, and eliminate abuse of, their services. In support of this, the Agency is examining whether any changes will be required to its current data collection and collation arrangements in respect of the location of those applying for indefinite leave to remain applications, and in other categories.

However, any geographical data that is provided will be based on a 'snapshot' of where individual applicants were located on the last occasion that they needed to be in official contact with the Agency. The data will therefore be limited in its application (and this limitation will apply to any data that is derived from address or postcode information that the Agency holds).

Foreigners: Graduates

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of foreign nationals who will remain in the UK in 2008 as a result of the international graduate scheme. [165319]

Mr. Byrne: No formal estimates have been made of the numbers of foreign nationals who will remain in the UK in 2008 as a result of the International Graduates Scheme (IGS). IGS participants who wish to remain in

the UK beyond their 12 months leave are able to switch into the various employment and self-employment categories provided they meet the relevant requirements.

Fraud: Motor Vehicles

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has had discussions with *(a)* the insurance industry and *(b)* the Insurance Fraud Bureau on the establishment of a national strategy to tackle staged and induced motor accidents. [166219]

Mr. Coaker: Home Office Ministers and officials have regular contact with representatives of the insurance industry and the Insurance Fraud Bureau.

A wide-ranging cross-Whitehall review of fraud, which reported last year, recommended a national strategy on fraud, overseen by a National Fraud Strategic Authority (NFSA). The review and its recommendations were not specific to insurance fraud but a national strategy would cover this type of activity. The Comprehensive Spending Review made funds available to establish the NFSA; the Home Office and the Association of British Insurers are both actively involved in this process.

Human Trafficking: Prostitution

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will set up an anonymous helpline for members of the public to report suspicions of sex workers who have been *(a)* trafficked and *(b)* subject to coercion. [166407]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 November 2007]*: We have no plans to set up an anonymous helpline specifically on these issues. The Crimestoppers helpline is already available for members of the public to report crimes of any nature, anonymously.

The Government's coordinated prostitution strategy, published in January 2006, has delivered a number of initiatives to improve the safety of those involved in prostitution. This has included the launch of the Crimestoppers 'STOP' campaign, which aims to encourage those in the sex industry to report crimes to Crimestoppers. This information can then be passed to the police and also shared with others at risk in the area.

Immigration

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evidence of *(a)* actual and *(b)* potential effects on (i) local wage levels and (ii) local unemployment have been identified through research on international immigration (1) commissioned and (2) evaluated by her Department in the last six years. [165385]

Mr. Byrne: Research into the effects of immigration on wages and employment is summarised in the joint Home Office and Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) submission to the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs, which was laid before Parliament and published in October 2007, "The Economic and Fiscal Impact of Immigration" (Cm 7237).

Immigration Controls

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she received from her counterparts in Romania and Bulgaria before making the decision to continue the restrictions on migrant workers from these countries. [163169]

Mr. Byrne: The Romanian and Bulgarian Governments were invited to contribute evidence on the type of work being undertaken by their migrants in the UK, the experiences of migrants coming to the UK to work and the impact of migration on the public, private and voluntary sectors in Bulgaria and Romania. Both Governments provided evidence which was carefully considered before the UK Government's final decision was made.

Imports: Radioactive Materials

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of shipping containers entering the United Kingdom by *(a)* ship, *(b)* plane, *(c)* truck and *(d)* train were tested for radioactive materials in each month in 2007. [164439]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

For security reasons, it is not appropriate to break down the percentage of traffic screened by traffic type.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times unauthorised radioactive material was detected in shipping containers entering the United Kingdom in each year since 2001; and what *(a)* quantity and *(b)* type of radioactive substance was detected. [164440]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

For security reasons, it is not appropriate to give a breakdown of the quantity and type of radioactive substances detected.

Members: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department will reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's letters of 5 October and 22 October with regard to her constituent, Mr. Joseph Coutinho. [166159]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 13 November 2007.

Migration Advisory Committee

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which individuals and organisations have a statutory duty to report to the Migration Advisory Committee. [164793]

Mr. Byrne: No individuals and/or organisations have a statutory duty to report to the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC). The MAC is a non-statutory non departmental public body (NDPB).

Nuclear Power Stations: Security

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to secure nuclear power facilities in the United Kingdom from terrorist attack. [164438]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) is the Government's regulator for security in the civil nuclear industry and is responsible for ensuring, inter alia, that the industry complies with the requirements of the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 (NISR 03).

The NISR 03 requires those who use and store nuclear and/or other radioactive material (NM/ORM) in whatever form on a civil nuclear licensed site (including tenants) or use or store significant quantities of NM at other premises to have an approved Site Security Plan (SSP). SSPs must describe in writing the standards, procedures and arrangements which are kept in place to ensure the security of the nuclear premises, nuclear materials, other radioactive material and sensitive nuclear information. These arrangements include the full range of security measures including physical (e.g. fences, intruder detection systems and guards), personnel (e.g. national security vetting) and information security issues. The SSPs must be approved by OCNS before they are adopted. Once adopted sites are regularly inspected by OCNS to ensure compliance with their SSP. SSPs are regarded as "live" documents and remain subject to constant review, scrutiny and amendment as necessary.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoption

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to issue guidance on forced adoption. [164702]

Kevin Brennan: In 2005 we published the Adoption and Children Act 2002 Guidance which explains the duties and responsibilities that the Act and supporting regulations place on adoption agencies. This publication provides guidance to local authorities on adoptions where the birth parent(s) consent(s) to the adoption, and where consent is not given.

Capita

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was paid by the Department for Education and Skills to Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [165764]

Kevin Brennan: Details of the amount paid to Capita and its subsidiaries by the Department for Education and Skills for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are set out in the following table.

	£
2004-05	206,577,675
2005-06	198,944,409

The expenditure relates to payments recorded in the Department's integrated financial information system and credited against Capita Group plc or its subsidiaries.

CfBT

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was paid by the Department for Education and Skills to CfBT in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [165763]

Kevin Brennan: Details of the amount paid to CfBT Education Trust by the Department for Education and Skills for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are set out in the following table.

	£
2004-05	41,248,613
2005-06	9,606,231

The expenditure relates to payments recorded in the Department's integrated financial information system and credited against CfBT Education Trust.

Child Benefit

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the relative costs of child benefit and foster care in the provision of support to *(a)* babies, *(b)* children and *(c)* young people. [164707]

Kevin Brennan: Child benefit is a standard monthly tax-free payment made to anyone bringing up a child or young person, providing that they are responsible for that child or young person. Foster placements are provided for children and young people who are looked after by local authorities. The individual support which they receive (including their placement) is based on a detailed assessment of their individual needs. The two types of support fulfil different functions. An assessment of the relative costs of child benefit and foster care has not, therefore, been undertaken.

Children: Databases

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the tendering process to begin for the e-enablement of the Common Assessment Framework; and if he will make a statement. [164825]

Kevin Brennan: It is the Government's intention to commence the formal tendering procedure to procure a national eCAF solution provider using OGC Catalist Framework arrangements at the end of 2007.

Children: Day Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what targets his Department has set to improve the quality of child care provision in England. [166393]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* We have a Public Service Agreement target to improve the outcomes for children at age five and also

to reduce inequalities in outcomes between the children from the 30 per cent. most disadvantaged areas and their peers. We set annual targets for local authorities that reflect this PSA.

High quality provision is essential if we are raise outcomes and reduce inequalities. We are supporting the sector by significantly investing in raising the qualification levels of the workforce to raise child care quality, with an aim of having a graduate in every full daycare setting by 2015. We are supporting this aim through the Transformation Fund and, from 1 April 2008, the Graduate Leader Fund. Also we are funding the NCB to promote continuous quality improvement in the child care sector, through a sector-wide network and by establishing universal quality principles. This, with the revised inspection arrangements for early years that Ofsted are currently developing to reflect the new Early Years Foundations Stage framework, support improvement in quality and standards across the sector.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what targets his Department has set to increase the *(a)* numbers and *(b)* levels of relevant qualifications held within the child care workforce. [166394]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* In our response in February 2006 to the consultation on the Children's Workforce Strategy, we confirmed our ambition to have more widespread graduate leadership of early years settings through the development of an Early Years Professional Status. We set out our aim to have Early Years Professionals in all children's centres offering early years provision by 2010 and in every full day care setting by 2015. In our response, we also set out our aim to secure a higher proportion of the workforce in all settings qualified to at least Level 3 by 2008.

Children: Obesity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department plans to weigh children on leaving primary school as part of the tackling obesity agenda. [164764]

Kevin Brennan: The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) aims to weigh and measure all children in Reception (aged four-five) and Year 6 (aged 10-11) in maintained primary and middle schools in England. The NCMP was established by the Department of Health and the Department for Education and Skills (now Department for Children, Schools and Families) in 2005 and it is now into its third year.

The NCMP is part of the Government's work programme to tackle childhood obesity. It was established to inform local planning and delivery of services for children and gather population-level surveillance data to allow analysis of trends in growth patterns and obesity.

Pupils are measured at school, with Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) leading the programme, and we have provided guidance to both PCTs and schools. Measurements are taken under the supervision of a trained healthcare professional with safeguards for privacy and a non-stigmatising approach. Parents are given the opportunity to opt their child out of being weighed and measured, and pupils can refuse to participate on the day.

Aggregated data, with all personal identifiers removed, is sent to the Information Centre for Health and Social Care which manages the National Childhood Measurement Database and produce a national report based on the information.

Parents may request their child's results from the PCT and we are planning to make that information available to all parents as a matter of course through provisions in the Health and Social Care Bill, introduced to Parliament on 16 November. The PCT will also provide information and support materials and will advise that parents can follow up any concerns with their GP or other health professional.

Children's Centres: Privatisation

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children's centres were privatised in each of the last five years; [165203]

(2) whether his Department has any plans for further privatisation of children's centres. [165204]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities working with their partners in children's trusts are responsible for the overall delivery of the Sure Start Children's Centres programme in England including planning, securing value for money and ensuring overall quality in children's centres. We encourage them to involve private, voluntary and independent organisations both in managing children's centres and as service providers in order to harness the best of all sectors in delivering quality services for children. Reliable information on how many children's centres are run by private sector organisations is not available centrally. A survey of early children's centres last year showed around 58 per cent. of childcare provision in children's centres is provided by the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector.

Together for Children (TfC), the consortium appointed to support local authorities during the children's centre roll-out, are monitoring and challenging them on their involvement and use of PVI providers. They have produced a range of support materials for use by both local authorities and local PVI organisations as they work together in delivering children's centre services available online at www.children's-centres.org

Departmental Flexible Working

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours (i) in the Department and (ii) the executive agencies for which the Department is responsible. [164322]

Kevin Brennan: All staff in my Department can work flexibly. The information is not held centrally in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has no executive agencies.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which financial years since 2001 his Department's outturn for its capital budget at the end of the year was less than planned at the beginning of the year; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* reason for the underspend was in each case. [164512]

Kevin Brennan: DCSF is a newly created Department and we do not hold information on DCSF budgets for earlier years. To produce such information would involve disproportionate costs. It should be noted that underspends are measured on the end year budget and not on the budget at the beginning of the year.

Extended Schools

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools are providing access to the full core offer of extended services broken down by (i) region, (ii) local education authority and (iii) Parliamentary constituency; and if he will make a statement. [164826]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

Pupils: Assessments

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families by what means assessments for the third key stage will be aligned to new programmes of study under the new secondary curriculum. [165766]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the delivery of national curriculum assessments. The National Assessment Agency (NAA), which delivers the assessments on their behalf, will use their expertise to produce assessments that match the new curriculum's programme of study; encourage effective learning and teaching; and are widely accepted by the teaching community. Test materials will continue to be developed using rigorous procedures, which include informal trialling of early materials, two formal pre-tests using nationally representative samples of pupils as well as review by teachers, senior markers and other educational experts at key points in the process. QCA will use their well established procedures to ensure that standards are maintained.

Pupils: Attendance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which period of the school year is used for the measurement of school attendance by pupils in each year group; and if he will make a statement. [163321]

Kevin Brennan: The Department collects attendance and absence data for the autumn term, spring term and first half of the summer term for all compulsory school age pupils except boarders.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many surplus school places there were in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each year since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [166045]

Jim Knight: The Department collects information from each local authority on the number of surplus school places through an annual survey. The earliest data available are from 1998 and the most recent is for 2006. The number of surplus school places was not collected in 2002 to allow for a change in the method of assessing school capacity.

Currently the number of school places is calculated using the net capacity method of assessment which was introduced in 2003. Up to 2001 the capacity of a school was calculated using the MOE (more open enrolment) method. The following table shows the number of surplus places in maintained primary and secondary schools calculated by the net capacity method of assessment between 2003 and 2006 and the MOE method between 1998 and 2001.

	Primary surplus places[1]	*Surplus as a percentage of total primary places*	*Secondary surplus places*[1]	*Surplus as a percentage of total secondary places*
2006	513,512	12	244,111	7
2005	504,647	11	227,168	7
2004	497,233	11	220,528	6
2003	477,722	11	231,391	7
2001	449,037	10	250,733	7
2000	431,650	10	278,339	8
1999	415,794	9	316,572	9
1998	418,386	10	343,315	10

[1] Number of places relate to position as at January

Source:
Surplus Places Survey

Schools: Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much funding his Department gave to supplementary schools in each of the last five years; [165201]

(2) whether his Department has any plans to change funding for supplementary schools. [165202]

Jim Knight: The Department does not provide direct funding to supplementary schools. However, earlier this year, in partnership with the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the Department contributed £596,000 towards funding the establishment of a national resource centre for supplementary education. One key aim of the centre is to promote links between supplementary schools, local authorities and mainstream schools.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of secondary schools in School Sports Partnerships held at least one sports day or sports festival in each of the last five years. [164452]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* The annual School Sport Survey was introduced in 2003/04. Over the last four years, the percentage of secondary schools that held at least one school sports day or equivalent during the academic year is as follows:

	Percentage of secondary schools holding a sports day
2003/04	93
2004/05	[1]—
2005/06	95
2006/07	97

[1] The question was not asked in this year.

Prior to 2003/04, no data were collected on the percentage of schools holding a sports day.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school sport partnerships there are; and how many he estimates there will be in 2010. [166672]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* There are 450 School Sport Partnerships in England. Every maintained school in England is now part of one of these partnerships. It is not envisaged that the number of School Sport Partnerships will change for 2010.

Secondary Education: Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of secondary schools with *(a)* above 50 per cent. *(b)* between 45 per cent. and 50 per cent. *(c)* between 21 per cent. and 35 per cent. *(d)* between 13 per cent. and 21 per cent. *(e)* between nine per cent. and 13 per cent. *(f)* between five and nine per cent. and *(g)* under five per cent. of children on free school meals had specialist status in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) at the most recent time for which figures are available; how many schools there were in each category; and if he will make a statement. [165156]

Jim Knight: The information can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Secondary Education: Sports

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of secondary schools which field sports teams in regular competitive fixtures. [165097]

Kevin Brennan: Data are not collected in the format requested. The 2006/07 annual School Sport Survey of all maintained school in England found that 61 per cent. of pupils in secondary schools took part in intra-school competitive sport, and 34 per cent. took part in inter-school competitive sport.

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what variation is allowed in teachers' pay to compensate for local labour market and cost variations; which areas of England receive higher funding to accommodate higher pay costs; and if he will make a statement. [165067]

Jim Knight: The variations in the four teachers' pay areas, covering Inner London, Outer London, the "Fringe" (extending to certain parts of the home counties), and the rest of England and Wales (as defined in the school teachers' pay and conditions document), are intended to take account of economic circumstances linked to labour market conditions and cost of living pressures within the pay areas. The variations in pay apply to all teacher pay scales. The starting salary for a newly qualified teacher, for example, currently varies from £20,133 for England and Wales, £21,102 for "Fringe", £23,118 for outer London, to £24,168 for inner London. Full details of pay variations are available in the school teachers' pay and conditions document 2007 (available in the House of Commons Library and at www.teachernet.gov.uk/pay).

The areas of England which receive higher funding to accommodate higher pay costs were set out in my response to the question from the hon. Member on the 15 November (PQ163822).

Individual schools also have a range of flexibilities over pay which they can use in the light of prevailing local circumstances, including determining recruitment or retention payments for teachers in addition to their normal salary entitlement.

Young People

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many persons aged 16 to 18-year-olds there were in each local authority area in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and what proportion were *(a)* in full-time work and *(b)* not in education, employment or training. [165147]

Jim Knight: The official source for employment figures in England is the Labour Force Survey (LFS), but the LFS sample is insufficiently large to produce robust estimates of 16 to 18-year-old employment at local authority level. The Department's estimate of the number and proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) also cannot be disaggregated to regional or local authority level. However, we can give an indication of the number of 16, 17 and 18-year-olds[1] in full-time employment and NEET from data provided by Connexions services, and this is provided in the following table. Connexions data has only been available at local authority level since 2005.

Data provided by Connexions services are used to set and monitor local authority NEET targets. However, it should be noted that figures are calculated on a different basis from LFS employment estimates and the Department's NEET estimates, and therefore do not give the same totals.

[1] Connexions service figures relate to calendar age (rather than academic age as is used in the Department's participation estimates)

Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds in (a) full-time employment and (b) not in education employment or training, and (c) 16 to 18 population estimates by local authority

	2005		2006		2006
	Percentage 16 to 18-year-olds				
	In employment[1]	NEET[2]	In employment[1]	NEET[2]	16 to 18-year-old population[3]
South East					
Bracknell Forest	20.4	8.6	19.8	6.4	5,199
Reading	13.7	10.7	23.3	7.3	5,025
Windsor and Maidenhead	10.0	5.0	12.5	4.2	6,095
Slough	11.0	9.3	15.9	5.4	4,927
West Berkshire	16.8	6.4	15.3	5.2	6,565
Wokingham	17.5	6.1	19.2	4.8	6,218
Kent	13.7	6.3	18.2	6.4	55,793
Medway	15.3	8.1	23.0	6.1	11,099
Buckinghamshire	14.7	3.9	17.5	3.2	19,401
Milton Keynes	22.1	7.8	23.0	6.5	9,167
Oxfordshire	24.1	4.9	24.0	4.8	24,285
Portsmouth	14.5	11.1	22.0	9.9	7,631
Southampton	19.1	10.4	20.8	9.4	8,162
Isle of Wight	14.9	5.5	18.6	5.9	5,354
Hampshire	13.4	4.8	18.6	5.2	50,676
Surrey	15.6	3.5	16.5	3.3	40,857
Brighton and Hove	17.6	10.7	19.2	10.9	8,584
East Sussex	17.2	8.1	19.4	8.0	19,323
West Sussex	17.6	4.7	20.8	4.5	28,382
London					
Camden	3.5	8.9	3.2	7.5	6,141
Islington	3.9	10.5	3.8	8.6	5,790
Kensington and Chelsea	4.1	9.5	2.7	7.9	4,209
Lambeth	4.5	15.3	4.7	10.5	8,339
Southwark	6.7	14.5	6.8	11.7	8,501
Wandsworth	4.3	6.9	3.7	6.0	6,184
Westminster	3.5	8.2	3.4	6.5	5,421
Barking and Dagenham	10.9	12.5	14.1	11.4	6,407
Bexley	22.4	8.2	21.5	6.9	9,113
City of London[4]	—	—	0.6	1.1	125
Greenwich	11.6	12.2	12.0	12.0	8,615
Hackney	4.9	16.1	4.5	13.1	8,005
Havering	14.0	7.2	16.3	6.1	9,053
Lewisham	8.3	9.1	6.5	6.7	9,036
Newham	6.4	9.8	7.0	10.8	11,198
Redbridge	5.7	6.5	7.6	4.8	10,005
Tower Hamlets[4]	6.3	12.6	7.6	10.9	7,909
Barnet	6.1	6.2	5.0	4.8	11,876
Enfield	5.2	8.3	8.6	7.0	11,122
Haringey	3.6	11.6	4.2	12.5	8,437
Waltham Forest	6.6	6.5	8.4	6.3	8,326
Bromley	12.5	5.5	16.8	5.0	10,987
Croydon	12.4	9.2	14.0	8.1	13,894
Kingston	7.1	3.9	10.3	3.4	5,423
Merton	16.2	7.7	17.6	6.7	6,338
Richmond	9.1	4.3	14.4	4.0	5,506
Sutton	13.7	5.3	17.4	4.8	7,146
Brent	3.8	5.4	3.5	6.7	10,104
Ealing	6.5	7.7	7.2	7.8	10,894
Hammersmith and Fulham	5.6	15.9	6.9	8.4	4,624
Harrow	7.3	5.5	7.7	5.3	9,643
Hillingdon	10.5	7.9	12.1	7.0	9,932
Hounslow	7.1	7.2	7.8	8.3	8,214
East of England					
Bedfordshire	13.2	7.3	15.1	7.2	16,010
Luton	9.4	8.6	11.7	9.4	8,257
Cambridgeshire	18.9	5.8	21.7	5.4	22,800

Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds in (a) full-time employment and (b) not in education employment or training, and (c) 16 to 18 population estimates by local authority

	2005		2006		2006
	Percentage 16 to 18-year-olds				
	In employment[1]	NEET[2]	In employment[1]	NEET[2]	16 to 18-year-old population[3]
Peterborough	20.8	10.5	18.9	9.5	6,693
Essex	20.8	8.6	25.6	6.9	52,078
Thurrock	13.2	9.2	20.1	7.8	5,899
Southend	11.8	8.0	14.0	7.0	5,975
Hertfordshire	16.7	5.1	17.5	4.6	40,839
Norfolk	21.3	7.5	22.4	7.9	29,643
Suffolk	21.2	8.5	22.4	8.4	26,919
South West					
Bournemouth	24.4	8.1	24.6	8.5	5,396
Dorset	22.8	6.0	23.3	6.8	16,605
Poole	22.2	6.6	23.9	6.2	5,663
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	18.8	7.1	18.8	6.1	20,078
Devon	23.8	6.2	24.4	6.0	27,672
Plymouth	20.7	8.2	22.8	7.4	10,200
Torbay	19.4	6.0	19.0	6.8	5,120
Gloucestershire	17.1	6.0	18.9	4.6	23,547
Somerset	20.4	5.3	22.5	4.8	21,995
Bath and NE Somerset	19.0	5.3	17.0	4.2	6,935
Bristol	21.7	9.3	19.8	7.8	14,739
North Somerset	19.9	4.8	22.3	4.8	7,377
South Gloucestershire	25.2	5.5	30.5	5.0	9,831
Swindon	20.4	6.1	18.5	8.3	7,312
Wiltshire	22.2	5.7	20.4	6.0	17,918
West Midlands					
Birmingham	9.7	14.3	12.7	11.4	44,430
Solihull	12.0	9.1	16.1	8.0	8,622
Dudley	15.9	8.4	12.0	6.4	12,108
Sandwell	18.0	10.6	19.0	15.6	11,945
Walsall	15.6	10.3	13.8	9.1	10,523
Wolverhampton	13.4	11.4	11.6	10.8	9,842
Coventry	19.5	9.1	19.3	8.7	12,879
Warwickshire	20.1	6.2	20.2	6.7	20,405
Herefordshire	23.4	7.0	23.2	5.5	6,754
Worcestershire	19.9	6.5	23.1	5.5	21,594
Shropshire	23.2	5.5	25.7	5.2	12,151
Telford and the Wrekin	21.1	8.9	21.8	9.1	6,988
Staffordshire	18.7	7.4	22.2	7.6	32,550
Stoke on Trent	16.5	15.7	20.1	16.1	9,879
East Midlands					
Derby City	14.2	9.6	16.4	8.4	9,225
Derbyshire	20.7	8.2	23.6	7.1	29,051
Leicester City	10.4	10.6	12.6	9.9	12,267
Leicestershire	19.7	6.4	21.7	5.5	24,526
Lincolnshire	21.1	6.0	22.7	5.0	26,826
Rutland	24.1	0.9	36.4	2.0	2,461
Northamptonshire	22.7	8.3	24.5	6.4	27,344
Nottinghamshire	21.9	4.9	21.0	4.9	20,344
City of Nottingham	16.5	9.6	14.5	8.0	11,301
Yorks and the Humber					
East Riding	13.5	5.5	12.3	5.6	12,543
Kingston upon Hull	8.1	13.9	10.6	14.1	10,939
North East Lincolnshire	10.8	10.0	11.5	9.8	7,393
North Lincolnshire	8.0	8.1	6.4	9.2	6,268
Barnsley	20.4	13.4	26.3	12.3	8,767
Doncaster	20.6	11.8	27.6	11.3	12,124
Rotherham	18.4	9.9	22.2	10.8	10,264

Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds in (a) full-time employment and (b) not in education employment or training, and (c) 16 to 18 population estimates by local authority

	2005		2006		2006
	Percentage 16 to 18-year-olds				
	In employment[1]	NEET[2]	In employment[1]	NEET[2]	16 to 18-year-old population[3]
Sheffield	17.7	10.8	21.3	10.5	19,559
Bradford	18.9	11.6	18.7	9.8	21,101
Calderdale	16.8	9.5	19.5	9.7	8,157
Kirklees	15.2	9.6	16.6	9.7	16,352
Leeds	20.8	10.4	18.9	9.1	29,799
Wakefield	26.1	11.6	26.4	10.6	12,972
York	20.1	5.2	19.3	5.9	6,927
North Yorkshire	21.3	4.9	21.7	4.8	25,596
North West					
Cheshire	21.9	5.9	23.2	5.4	26,328
Warrington	23.0	7.8	23.8	7.0	7,728
Cumbria	25.4	6.7	27.0	5.8	19,244
Bolton	21.2	10.8	24.5	12.7	11,051
Bury	21.4	8.1	23.2	8.0	7,825
City of Manchester	12.1	12.0	12.2	11.4	18,071
Oldham	18.6	7.4	17.4	8.8	9,517
Rochdale	21.4	10.4	25.6	12.1	9,288
Salford	23.7	9.7	24.9	10.2	8,573
Stockport	22.5	6.4	23.9	8.8	11,503
Trafford	17.8	6.2	17.3	7.3	8,422
Tameside	20.9	8.3	19.8	9.1	9,283
Wigan	25.2	10.1	26.4	9.9	12,315
Halton	19.3	11.2	19.4	11.8	5,248
Knowsley	18.3	12.4	18.0	13.7	6,995
Liverpool	17.0	12.4	18.5	13.2	18,786
Sefton	17.9	8.3	14.0	7.6	11,936
St. Helens	23.8	12.2	16.5	10.0	7,391
Wirral	19.3	9.7	18.1	10.0	13,468
Blackburn with Darwen	20.2	10.8	15.0	8.6	6,779
Blackpool	23.2	12.4	18.0	8.8	5,682
Lancashire	24.7	8.1	26.0	7.5	48,068
North East					
County Durham	18.7	13.3	21.7	12.9	19,262
Northumberland	19.7	9.6	22.8	10.0	11,834
Darlington	12.2	9.1	12.6	6.7	3,896
Stockton on Tees	13.8	9.9	18.0	9.9	7,879
Middlesbrough	8.8	15.7	9.9	13.7	6,402
Hartlepool	13.6	10.0	14.3	11.1	3,976
Redcar and Cleveland	15.2	10.8	16.9	11.9	5,939
Sunderland	20.1	13.6	19.3	13.3	11,592
Gateshead	18.5	13.6	20.1	12.3	7,686
Newcastle	9.2	10.4	7.8	9.4	10,252
North Tyneside	16.4	11.2	17.8	11.4	7,461
South Tyneside	13.8	17.7	19.3	11.3	6,405

[1] The percentage in employment is at the end of December.
[2] The percentage NEET is the average between November and January.
[3] ONS/DCSF estimate of the population of academic age 16 to 18 at end of 2006.
[4] Data for City of London were included with Tower Hamlets in 2005.

JUSTICE

Administration of Justice: Jamaica

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consider the merits of giving financial or practical aid to the Jamaican Government to assist *(a)* its criminal justice system and *(b)* its provision for prisoners of Jamaican nationality deported from UK; and if he will make a statement. [165829]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

The development of the Jamaican criminal justice system is a matter of mutual importance to Jamaica and the UK. The Government continue to provide significant support to the criminal justice sector in Jamaica, including through their assistance to the Jamaica constabulary force, and are looking for ways to develop this further. We are hoping to provide further assistance to the reform of the justice sector which the Jamaican Government are pursuing. We are also discussing with

the Jamaican Government ways of co-operating more closely on the issue of rehabilitation of Jamaicans deported from the UK.

Courts: Interpreters

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of the employment of interpreters in the criminal courts in England and Wales in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [166192]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost through the manual searching of individual court files. Her Majesty's Courts Service is giving consideration to the routine collection of data relating to interpreting and translation services used in court.

Criminal Justice Act 2003

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many provisions enacted in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 are not yet in force. [166191]

Maria Eagle: Only a small percentage of the 329 substantive sections in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 have yet to be implemented. These figures are shown in the following table.

Officials are actively working on these areas of legislation with a view to implementation, considering resource implications, undertaking pilot exercises, or examining other necessary procedures and practices.

	Number of sections	*Percentage of sections*
Wholly in force	276	84
Partially in force	26	8
Not in force	26	8
Repealed	1	—

Crown Courts: Chelmsford

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff were employed in Chelmsford Crown court in each year since 1996-97, broken down by grade. [165739]

Maria Eagle: As of 30 September 2007 a total of 33 staff are recorded as working for our Crown court in Chelmsford. The following table details the grade and full or part-time status of directly employed staff, along with comparative data for each year since 31 March 1997.

Chelmsford Crown court staff

Government grade	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Grand total*
30 September 2007			
AA	5	4	9
AO	7	2	9
EO	8	3	11
G7	2	0	2
HEO	1	0	1
SEO	1	0	1
Grand total	24	9	33
31 March 2006			
AA	5	5	10
AO	6	3	9
EO	8	2	10
G7	1	0	1
HEO	3	0	3
SEO	1	0	1
Grand total	24	10	34
31 March 2005			
AA	6	5	11
AO	8	4	12
EO	10	2	12
G7	1	0	1
HEO	2	0	2
SEO	1	0	1
Grand total	28	11	39
31 March 2004			
AA	5	7	12
AO	8	1	9
EO	8	3	11
G7	1	0	1
HEO	3	0	3
SEO	0	0	0
Grand total	25	11	36
31 March 2003			
AA	6	5	11
AO	4	2	6
EO	7	2	9
G7	1	0	1
HEO	3	0	3
SEO	0	0	0
Grand total	21	9	30
31 March 2002			
AA	5	6	11
AO	4	2	6
EO	7	2	9
G7	0	0	0
HEO	3	0	4
SEO	1	0	1
Grand total	20	10	30
31 March 2001			
AA	4	5	9
AO	6	2	8
EO	7	2	9
G7	0	0	0
HEO	3	1	4
SEO	1	0	1
Grand total	21	10	31

Chelmsford Crown court staff

Government grade	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Grand total*
31 March 2000			
AA	6	4	10
AO	4	2	6
EO	7	2	9
G7	0	0	0
HEO	2	1	3
SEO	1	0	1
Grand total	20	9	29
31 March 1999			
AO	5	2	7
CAS AO	0	1	1
EO	8	1	9
G7	0	0	0
HEO	3	1	4
SEO	1	0	1
SGB 1	2	0	2
SGB 2	6	3	9
Grand total	25	8	33
31 March 1998			
AO	5	1	6
EO	7	1	8
HEO	4	0	4
SEO	1	0	1
SGB 1	2	0	2
SGB 2	7	4	11
TYP	0	2	2
Grand total	26	8	34
31 March 1997			
AA	1	0	1
AO	7	1	8
EO	7	2	9
HEO	3	0	3
SEO	1	0	1
SGB 1	2	0	2
SGB 2	7	5	12
TYP	0	2	2
Grand total	28	10	38

Dangerous Driving: Foreigners

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign nationals have been charged with offences under sections 2 or 3 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 in each of the last 10 years. [165817]

Maria Eagle: Information on drivers charged with motoring offences is not collected centrally. The court proceedings database held by my Department identifies proceedings under sections 2 and 3 of the Road Traffic Act 1988. However, the nationality of those proceeded against does not form part of that information.

Drugs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what drugs programmes are administered by his Department; and what the budget of each was in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [164851]

Maria Eagle: For those in custody a comprehensive range of drug interventions is available for drug misusers, comprising:

Clinical services (detoxification and/or maintenance prescribing programmes), available in all local and remand prisons;

CARATs (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare services), available in all prisons;

Drug Rehabilitation Programmes, 116 programmes running across the estate; and

YPSMS (Young People's Substance Misuse Service), available for all young people in custody (funded by the Youth Justice Board).

For those supervised by the National Probation Service (NPS), provision consists of:

the Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR), which has replaced the Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO);

drug testing on licence and for those offenders living in Approved Premises (the probation hostel estate);

Prospects—providing abstinence-based regimes delivering seamless support in residential settings; and

Accredited substance misuse programmes.

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) provides the following interventions:

Substance misuse workers in all Youth Offending Teams (YOTs);

Resettlement and Aftercare Provision (RAP) attached to 59 YOTs; and

Substance misuse services in the juvenile secure estate.

A table showing the budget for each intervention over the last five years is as follows.

£ million

Intervention	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Custodial provision					
Clinical Services	11.3	11.3	11.3	[1]23.3	[1]24.0
CARATS[2]	17.4	23.3	25.7	30.7	31.7
Drug Rehabilitation Programmes	9.0	13.8	19.4	19.4	19.4
Total Custodial Drug Treatment[3]	37.7	48.4	56.4	73.4	75.1
NPS provision					
DTTO/DRR treatment and testing in England (via Pooled Treatment Budget)	29.7	42.0	42.0	42.0	42.0
DTTO/DRR supervision and enforcement in England and full costs in Wales	24.0	34.0	39.0	39.0	39.0

Intervention	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*£ million 2007-08*
Prospects Programme	—	—	3.0	3.8	4.4
Drug Testing on Licence	—	—	1.1	1.1	1.8
Total Community Drug Treatment	53.7	76.0	85.1	85.9	87.2
YJB provision					
YOTs	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5
RAPs	1.5	5.0	12.5	12.5	12.5
Custodial interventions (including YPSMS)[4]	11.0	11.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Total YJB Drug Treatment	21.0	24.5	29.0	29.0	29.0

[1] Includes additional funding for Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS).
[2] Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare.
[3] The total figure excludes funding for the YPSMS delivered in prisons.
[4] Young peoples Substance Misuse Service delivered in prisons and secure centres. Includes £1 million a year baseline drugs funding.

The NFS accredited substance misuse group work programmes are funded through the general probation main grant allocation. It is therefore for local probation areas to allocate resources accordingly.

Frankland Prison

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been segregated under Rule 43 conditions in HM Prison Frankland since April 2007; and how long the period of segregation has been in each case. [165997]

Maria Eagle: It is assumed that my hon. Friend is referring to Rule 45, which replaced Rule 43 in 1999. The following table shows the number of prisoners who are recorded as having commenced a period of detention in the segregation unit at Frankland on or after 1 April 2007 up to 15 November 2007. Some of these prisoners remain in the segregation unit.

Number of weeks held in the segregation unit	*Number of prisoners*	*Comments*
Under 1 week	30	3 continuing to be held, one of whom is being employed
1-2 weeks	12	1 continuing to be held
2-3 weeks	5	1 continuing to be held
3-4 weeks	7	1 continuing to be held
4-5 weeks	5	3 continuing to be held
5-6 weeks	3	1 continuing to be held
6-7 weeks	1	—
7-8 weeks	6	2 continuing to be held
9-10 weeks	2	1 continuing to be held
10-11 weeks	1	—
13-14 weeks	1	—
14-15 weeks	3	—
15-16 weeks	1	—
22-23 weeks	1	—
23-24 weeks	0	—
24-25 weeks	1	1 continuing to be held although also being employed.
Total	79	—

Frankland Prison: Crimes of Violence

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inmates at HM Prison Frankland have declared themselves a victim of assault since April 2007. [165995]

Maria Eagle: Between 1 April 2007 and 15 November 2007, 19 prisoners reported themselves as being a victim of assault by another prisoner.

Freedom of Information

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of freedom of information requests to his Department have been replied to within 20 days; what the greatest length of time taken to issue a reply has been; and if he will make a statement. [166754]

Mr. Wills: My Department publishes a quarterly report of statistics on Freedom of Information implementation in central Government. According to the most recent report, detailing performance in the second quarter of 2007, 73 per cent. of requests to the Ministry of Justice were answered within the statutory deadline of 20 working days. Overall 91 per cent. of requests to the Ministry were answered in time, meaning within the statutory deadline or within a permitted extension. To determine the greatest length of time taken to respond to a request would incur disproportionate cost.

Joint Ministerial Committee

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the next plenary meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee is planned to take place. [166557]

Mr. Wills: The UK Government and the devolved administrations are committed, wherever possible, to conducting business through normal administrative channels, at either official or ministerial level. The JMC has met regularly in functional formats to discuss matters of mutual interest to the UK Government and the devolved Administrations. The UK Government are considering when it would be appropriate for a meeting of the JMC in plenary session to take place.

Legal Services Commission: Slough

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Legal Services Commission matter starts were given for *(a)* welfare benefit, *(b)* housing, *(c)* employment, *(d)* debt, *(e)* immigration, *(f)* community care and *(g)* family law cases in Slough in

each of the last five years; and how many are being offered in the current bid rounds. [165945]

Maria Eagle: The figures for new matter starts for Slough over the last three years are shown in the following table. Data for 2003-04 or 2002-03 are not available. Within these new matter starts, we are specifically looking to target Slough with community care, employment and welfare benefits, as there is no category specific contract in these areas of law in Slough at present.

Allocated NMS	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Community Care	0	0	0
Debt	455	298	361
Education	6	16	20
Employment	0	58	36
Family	1,024	1,223	1,352
Housing	474	758	697
Immigration	0	260	0
Welfare benefits	4	18	34
Miscellaneous	238	287	199
Total	2,201	2,918	2,699

In the current bid round for the procurement area of Berkshire (covering Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead, Bracknell, Wokingham, Reading and West Berkshire), we are offering 2,050 new matter starts to cover housing, debt, welfare benefits, community care and employment. The intention is for providers in Slough to cover the whole Berkshire area and vice versa. In Berkshire the maximum number of new matter starts is 1,500 for social welfare law (debt; housing; welfare benefits; employment; community care) and 550 for family law.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* remit is of each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department; who the chairman is of each; and to what salary, including bonuses and expenses, each chairman is entitled. [163605]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is shown in Table 1 in respect of executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) sponsored by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). Information on 2007-08 budgets is consistent with the Winter Supplementary Estimate laid before Parliament on 15 November 2007.

The Northern Ireland Court Service (NICtS) supports the Lord Chancellor in discharging his ministerial responsibilities in Northern Ireland, including responsibility for judicial appointments and legal aid. It also sponsors two executive NDPBs and their details can be found in Table 2.

Following machinery of Government changes, on 9 May 2007 the Criminal Cases Review Commission, Youth Justice Board and Parole Board transferred from the Home Office and became the responsibility of the newly formed MoJ. The Judicial Appointments Commission, Legal Services Commission and Information Commissioner's Office were formerly sponsored by the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and are now sponsored by MoJ.

Details of the remit, Government funding and gross expenditure of public bodies sponsored by NICtS, the former DCA and the Home Office can be found in executive NDPBs' annual reports, which are in the Libraries of the House. Details can also be found in the Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies 2006", which is available in the Library of the House and online at

www.civilservice.gov.uk

Table 1: MoJ executive non-departmental public bodies

NDPB	*2007-08 Budget*	*Remit*	*Current chairman*	*2006-07 salary*
Judicial Appointments Commission	£7.1 million	The JAC is the independent public body that selects and recommends candidates for judicial office in England and Wales. It does so on merit, through fair and open competition and from the widest range of eligible candidates.	Baroness Prashar	£105,000
Legal Services Commission	£2,141.4 million	The LSC runs the legal aid scheme in England and Wales, providing information, advice and legal representation to help about two million people each year get access to justice. The Community Legal Service helps people with civil legal problems such as family breakdown, debt, asylum and housing. The Criminal Defence Service helps people who are under police investigation or facing criminal charges	Sir Michael Bichard	£69,000
Office of the Information Commissioner	£5.0 million net (after setting off notification fees collected under the Data Protection Act 1998 against expenditure on Data Protection functions as Data Protection activities are self funded through collection of the fee which is forecast to be £10.6 million).	The ICO is the UK's independent authority set up to promote access to official information and to protect personal information. The ICO enforces and oversees the Data Protection Act, the Freedom of Information Act, the Environmental Information Regulations, and the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations.	Richard Thomas (Information Commissioner)	£98,592

Table 1: MoJ executive non-departmental public bodies

NDPB	2007-08 Budget	Remit	Current chairman	2006-07 salary
Criminal Cases Review Commission	£6.8 million	The CCRC is the independent public body set up to investigate possible miscarriages of justice in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Commission assesses whether convictions or sentences should be referred to a court of appeal.	Professor Graham Zellick	£165,900
Parole Board	£7.8 million	The Parole Board for England and Wales is an independent public body that works with its criminal justice partners to protect the public by making risk assessments about prisoners to decide whether they can be safely released into the community and must remain in or be returned to custody.	Professor Sir Duncan Nichol CBE	£75,000-£80,000
Youth Justice Board	£424.8 million	The YJB is responsible for overseeing the youth justice system in England and Wales. It works to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people under the age of 18 and to ensure that custody for them is safe, secure, and addresses the causes of their offending behaviour.	Graham Robb (interim)—from February 2007	£10,000-£15,000 (2 months as chair and 10 as a member)

Table 2: Northern Ireland Court Service executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPB)

NDPB	2007-08 Budget (£ million)	Remit	Current chairman	2006-07 Salary
Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission	1.5	To make recommendations for appointments to judicial offices in Northern Ireland up to and including High Court Judge	Right hon. Sir Brian Kerr (Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland)	No salary received from NDPB
Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission	72.4	The provision of publicly funded legal services in Northern Ireland	Jim Daniel	A daily rate of £436 is payable together with travel expenses. No bonus is payable

Offenders: Curfews

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders sentenced to a curfew order or a community sentence with a curfew condition were unlawfully at large in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* category of offence, *(b)* contract region and *(c)* police force area; and what penalties were imposed on each contractor as a result. [165807]

Mr. Hanson: If an offender subject to a curfew order or community sentence with a curfew requirement breaches their conditions, they are not deemed to be unlawfully at large, and the breach is not an arrestable offence. In such cases either the contractor or the responsible criminal justice agency will undertake enforcement proceedings with the court, and a summons will be issued to the offender. In some cases the court may issue a community penalty breach warrant to enforce attendance at a breach hearing.

The contractors' performance is not measured according to the volume of curfew breaches recorded, as this is not within their control. They will incur financial penalties for failing to meet targets on 16 service levels relating to their monitoring operation. These are audited monthly by the Ministry of Justice.

Offenders: Drugs

Mr. Mallins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on the use of naltrexone as a heroin antagonist for prisoners and those serving non-custodial sentences. [166169]

Mr. Hanson: Naltrexone is recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) as a treatment option in detoxified formerly opioid-dependent people who are highly motivated to remain in an abstinence programme. For it to be effective, it should be given as part of a programme of supportive care.

This position is supported by Offender Health.

Offenders: Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget for education and training for offenders in prisons was in the last financial year; and what percentage this represents of the total prisons budget. [164886]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Education and Skills spent £96,133,384 on learning and skills delivery in public sector prisons in 2006-07. According to the 2006-07 HMPS Annual Report, the net operating cost of the Prison Service in that financial year was £1,936 million.

Offenders: Females

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date the Government intends to publish its response to the Corston Review. [166335]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have given a broad welcome to the report. The 43 recommendations which it makes are wide-ranging and propose action by a number of different Government Departments and organisations. We are carefully exploring the best way of taking forward the recommendations with all the departments and agencies concerned and hopefully we will be able to respond in a positive way before Christmas.

Politics and Government

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated cost is of the regional event to promote the White Paper "The Governance of Britain" in Leicester on 10 December 2007. [166658]

Mr. Wills: We estimate that the event in Leicester on 10 December will cost in the region of £40,000. Final costs will be available once the event has been completed.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which organisations have been engaged by his Department to provide services for regional events to promote the White Paper "The Governance of Britain". [166660]

Mr. Wills: The Central Office of Information has been contracted to provide support in delivering the "Governance of Britain" event to be held in Leicester on 10 December.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* date and *(b)* location is of each regional event arranged to promote the White Paper "The Governance of Britain". [166661]

Mr. Wills: To date, only one event has been scheduled to engage people on the Governance of Britain Green Paper. This will take place in Leicester on 10 December. Further events will take place early in the new year.

Prison Officers Association

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Prison Officers Association about their recommendation to issue batons to prison officers, with particular reference to their issue in young offender institutions. [163635]

Maria Eagle: Following a visit to Ford open prison the Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, my hon. Friend the Member for Bradford, South (Mr. Sutcliffe), wrote to the local Prison Officers Association branch chairman on 30 May 2007 announcing a review to examine whether there was firm evidence to support the carrying of batons in all areas of the prison estate that do not currently carry them. The national representatives of the POA were informed of the review in June 2007. More recently the review was discussed at a meeting between the POA and the Secretary of State for Justice on 30 October 2007. The Secretary of State has also discussed the issue with a number of local POA branches on recent visits to establishments.

Prison Officers: Dismissal

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reasons were for the dismissals of each of the *(a)* prison officers, *(b)* senior officers and *(c)* principal officers from each of the Welsh prisons in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007. [4] [166183]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the reasons for dismissal of each of the officers dismissed from Welsh prisons in 2005, 2006 and 2007 is shown in the list. Owing to the different grading structure in public sector and contracted prisons it is not possible to break down the information by grade.

2005

111 health (x3)
Failure to comply with operational procedures
Gross misconduct
Unacceptable attendance (x2)
Continued unacceptable attendance
Failure to disclose information
Failed probation period

2006

Committing criminal offence during employment
Expiry of retention period
Gross misconduct (sexual harassment claim)
Failure to notify company of arrest and subsequent charges
Assault on a prisoner
Conduct Case

2007

Poor attendance record
Failure to carry out roll count
Making untrue statements with intent on deceiving or defrauding the company
Failure to comply with operational procedures (x3)
Inappropriate and unprofessional conduct
Inappropriate and unprofessional behaviour towards a prisoner
Failed probation period

4. *[Official Report, 7 January 2008, Vol. 470, c. 1MC.]*

Prisoner Transfers: Greater London

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many companies tendered for the contracts awarded to Serco for the movement of prisoners in the Greater London area. [166077]

Maria Eagle: Two companies tendered for the London and South East area contract.

They were Securicor, now trading as G4S, and Premier, which changed its name to Serco in 2005 and was awarded the contract.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether more or fewer persons are provided by Serco for the movement of prisoners in the Greater London area than were engaged in such work prior to the inception of his Department's contract with Serco. [166193]

Maria Eagle: The previous generation of contracts covered different geographical areas and so no direct comparison is possible. Serco staff work across the geographical area of the contract.

Serco employed 1,215 staff in operational posts on this contract as at June 2007. Approximately 60 per cent. (729) were court-based; the rest were vehicle crews. Vehicle crews also perform some court duties to augment staff dedicated to court functions.

The level of staffing was agreed in detailed consultation with Her Majesty's Courts Service at the time of the contract specification by Her Majesty's Prison Service.

Contractors are incentivised to staff according to the needs of the court's business, and are not paid when court rooms are not staffed.

A performance penalty is applied when court rooms are not staffed but should have been, and were contracted to be staffed.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons are employed by the contractor Serco to deal with movement of prisoners in cases involving *(a)* the magistrates courts and *(b)* the Crown courts in the Greater London area. [166194]

Maria Eagle: Serco utilises its staff throughout its contract area, which covers London and the south-east. The number of staff dealing with the movement of prisoners to magistrates and Crown courts in the Greater London area is therefore variable, depending on which courts are sitting and the number of cases listed for appearance.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the annual cost of his Department's contract with Serco has been for the movement of prisoners in the Greater London area in each year since its inception. [166195]

Maria Eagle: The Greater London area is included as part of a wider geographical contract for the London and South East area and financial data is not routinely recorded to show what was spent moving prisoners within the Greater London area. Additionally, the provisions of the contract include services other than transportation of prisoners.

Details of the cost of the full service in London and South East are only available on a full year's basis from 1 April 2005.

	£ million
2005-06	46.4
2006-07	56.8
1 April 2007 to 20 October 2007	31.9

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements there are for faith and ethnicity monitoring among prisoners who are victims of assault. [165996]

Maria Eagle: The Prison Service Local Inmate Database System (LIDS) and its planned replacement C-NOMIS allow recording of both the religion and ethnicity of prisoners. The Incident Reporting System (IRS), used for recording assaults, routinely incorporates ethnicity information of any prisoners involved whether as assailants, fighters or victims. IRS does not routinely include religion of prisoners, but there are sampling techniques of that typically capture more than 70 per cent. of prisoner involvements to analyse faith aspects of assaults when required.

Prisons: Education

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to ensure that reductions in the prisons budget do not affect the level of education provision in prisons; and if he will make a statement. [165834]

Maria Eagle: The budget for education provision in prisons is held by the Learning and Skills Council and is not affected by reductions in the Prison Service budget. The Prison Service is aware of the need to ensure that the delivery of programmes for offenders to help reduce reoffending, including vocational skills for employment and other prison regimes associated with delivery of learning, is fully considered when operational savings are reviewed in the light of reduced prison funding.

Prosecutions: Driving Offences

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there have been of uninsured drivers *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each police force area in each of the last 10 years; and what the average penalty was. [165682]

Maria Eagle: Available information from 1997 to 2005 (latest available) is provided in the following tables. 2006 data will be available next year.

Proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1], and average fine imposed[2] by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2005

	1997		1998		1999	
Police force area	*Proceedings*	*Average fine (£)*	*Proceedings*	*Average fine (£)*	*Proceedings*	*Average fine (£)*
Avon and Somerset	15,354	259	16,892	204	15,098	165
Bedfordshire	4,724	314	4,449	293	3,479	274
Cambridgeshire	3,440	221	3,425	209	3,058	215
Cheshire	4,838	274	4,961	248	5,463	237
Cleveland	3,925	162	4,204	167	4,331	170
Cumbria	4,223	150	3,787	171	3,597	220
Derbyshire	5,565	270	5,137	279	5,120	283
Devon and Cornwall	8,422	184	7,232	185	7,493	178
Dorset	5,271	295	4,198	302	4,776	301
Durham	3,992	181	4,261	177	5,899	194
Essex	7,161	174	7,025	149	7,336	140
Gloucestershire	3,577	154	4,465	202	4,443	247

Proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1], and average fine imposed[2] by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2005

	1997		1998		1999	
Police force area	*Proceedings*	*Average fine (£)*	*Proceedings*	*Average fine (£)*	*Proceedings*	*Average fine (£)*
Greater Manchester	30,655	245	30,836	226	33,228	236
Hampshire	11,768	132	11,557	135	11,553	138
Hertfordshire	4,580	193	5,799	164	4,748	173
Humberside	4,408	159	4,279	148	4,894	143
Kent	6,935	246	6,958	241	6,151	227
Lancashire	20,334	332	18,794	296	18,111	237
Leicestershire	9,706	318	9,481	318	11,054	276
Lincolnshire	4,589	159	5,000	197	5,345	209
London, City of	2,671	332	3,127	314	2,521	346
Merseyside	10,896	200	9,747	203	8,932	200
Metropolitan Police	42,283	202	35,064	185	31,285	184
Norfolk	3,932	242	3,434	256	3,468	265
Northamptonshire	4,999	243	4,849	286	5,571	310
Northumbria	12,470	136	11,837	146	13,296	148
North Yorkshire	3,926	249	3,744	236	4,003	230
Nottinghamshire	8,078	164	8,726	165	7,957	153
South Yorkshire	11,228	194	11,553	206	11,763	191
Staffordshire	8,180	251	8,210	228	8,021	234
Suffolk	3,258	193	3,743	192	4,189	192
Surrey	4,942	243	3,908	242	4,436	215
Sussex	9,333	218	8,202	186	7,415	181
Thames Valley	11,887	292	11,948	257	13,543	268
Warwickshire	4,316	228	3,769	175	3,523	177
West Mercia	7,082	268	8,207	282	7,450	282
West Midlands	29,878	207	30,928	190	27,409	189
West Yorkshire	23,980	255	23,549	242	25,776	242
Wiltshire	3,463	152	4,820	182	4,708	186
Dyfed-Powys	3,079	183	2,852	182	3,017	175
Gwent	4,097	253	4,478	225	4,451	225
North Wales	4,859	210	4,452	226	4,102	272
South Wales	14,829	190	16,187	180	15,406	183
England and Wales	397,133	224	390,074	214	387,419	212

	2000		2001		2002	
Police force area	*Proceedings*	*Average fine (£)*	*Proceedings*	*Average fine (£)*	*Proceedings*	*Average fine (£)*
Avon and Somerset	14,609	182	13,022	130	15,124	133
Bedfordshire	3,594	226	4,651	164	4,731	169
Cambridgeshire	2,929	182	2,508	119	2,875	118
Cheshire	5,729	211	4,975	149	5,765	153
Cleveland	4,793	179	4,789	167	5,994	173
Cumbria	3,507	265	3,595	152	3,540	151
Derbyshire	5,318	296	5,429	337	5,614	355
Devon and Cornwall	9,234	179	8,648	133	9,598	132
Dorset	6,035	261	5,262	121	6,176	114
Durham	5,470	160	5,394	118	5,840	122
Essex	7,898	123	7,708	101	7,811	104
Gloucestershire	4,174	240	4,683	91	4,417	86
Greater Manchester	33,783	232	37,088	152	36,337	151
Hampshire	10,559	136	10,349	119	10,912	122
Hertfordshire	5,258	204	5,816	155	6,612	166
Humberside	5,024	137	4,730	122	4,464	132
Kent	9,033	271	9,592	209	10,059	192
Lancashire	18,354	219	16,280	111	17,555	113
Leicestershire	10,263	254	10,475	134	10,699	135
Lincolnshire	4,500	188	4,083	133	4,242	134
London, City of	1,738	375	1,826	369	2,353	368
Merseyside	10,054	207	9,467	163	10,360	167

	2000		2001		2002	
Police force area	*Proceedings*	*Average fine (£)*	*Proceedings*	*Average fine (£)*	*Proceedings*	*Average fine (£)*
Metropolitan Police	29,649	169	32,032	139	36,485	140
Norfolk	3,951	210	4,744	99	5,563	107
Northamptonshire	3,949	280	2,028	280	1,211	339
Northumbria	13,195	144	12,504	130	12,309	135
North Yorkshire	3,905	211	3,545	130	3,340	136
Nottinghamshire	7,748	150	7,856	152	7,460	156
South Yorkshire	12,690	170	14,623	128	13,859	137
Staffordshire	8,777	198	6,027	152	7,056	163
Suffolk	3,923	183	4,123	128	4,759	138
Surrey	4,941	218	5,101	201	5,554	215
Sussex	6,796	167	6,814	118	6,413	117
Thames Valley	12,816	250	11,728	134	12,842	135
Warwickshire	4,135	188	4,204	156	3,711	168
West Mercia	7,686	263	7,787	176	7,849	180
West Midlands	28,148	201	27,010	169	32,339	192
West Yorkshire	26,529	209	27,618	120	24,873	123
Wiltshire	4,901	204	5,292	283	5,326	286
Dyfed-Powys	3,072	169	2,953	155	3,316	166
Gwent	4,680	208	4,758	148	4,508	154
North Wales	3,697	230	3,376	144	4,048	150
South Wales	14,615	188	13,805	159	16,499	173
England and Wales	391,659	203	388,298	150	410,398	155

	2003[3]		2004		2005	
Police force area	*Proceedings*	*Average fine (£)*	*Proceedings*	*Average fine (£)*	*Proceedings*	*Average fine (£)*
Avon and Somerset	17,163	138	17,489	154	14,625	154
Bedfordshire	5,041	137	4,534	143	4,776	156
Cambridgeshire	3,301	131	3,120	152	3,371	171
Cheshire	6,385	167	6,515	179	4,592	190
Cleveland	5,575	171	6,597	189	4,611	202
Cumbria	3,488	159	3,446	169	2,855	171
Derbyshire-	5,793	367	6,326	367	5,869	376
Devon and Cornwall	9,676	127	8,943	134	7,404	145
Dorset	7,034	125	6,075	158	5,752	171
Durham	5,802	121	5,300	116	4,454	123
Essex	7,489	112	7,132	164	7,035	182
Gloucestershire	4,412	133	3,695	147	3,500	143
Greater Manchester	38,208	157	34,942	167	30,280	176
Hampshire	10,619	124	9,750	131	7,882	138
Hertfordshire	7,216	181	7,463	198	7,763	208
Humberside	5,509	137	5,170	150	4,840	180
Kent	9,788	191	10,673	197	8,535	204
Lancashire	21,229	141	16,065	156	17,960	169
Leicestershire	11,304	138	10,833	150	7,306	145
Lincolnshire	5,883	148	6,621	179	5,644	185
London, City of	2,563	334	2,812	230	1,499	198
Merseyside	12,776	148	13,023	137	10,728	141
Metropolitan Police	43,100	143	47,806	147	47,223	165
Norfolk	6,322	139	5,084	152	4,442	152
Northamptonshire	4,157	245	5,804	183	4,441	156
Northumbria	12,951	135	11,685	137	11,728	142
North Yorkshire	3,774	141	4,065	166	3,865	177
Nottinghamshire	9,224	152	9,224	188	7,358	138
South Yorkshire	13,745	146	11,416	125	11,246	147
Staffordshire	7,214	166	7,439	186	7,224	280
Suffolk	5,808	133	5,718	136	4,279	156
Surrey	4,657	221	3,927	197	4,491	195
Sussex	5,808	138	4,371	162	4,569	170
Thames Valley	14,516	158	12,920	198	11,255	206

Police force area	2003[3] Proceedings	2003[3] Average fine (£)	2004 Proceedings	2004 Average fine (£)	2005 Proceedings	2005 Average fine (£)
Warwickshire	3,756	164	4,160	210	3,469	200
West Mercia	7,735	165	7,249	193	7,144	208
West Midlands	36,409	200	39,696	206	34,786	207
West Yorkshire	26,966	134	32,404	144	26,667	144
Wiltshire	4,794	280	4,641	200	4,599	208
Dyfed-Powys	3,094	172	2,244	187	2,639	184
Gwent	4,083	171	3,474	157	3,241	171
North Wales	5,968	149	6,022	154	4,211	163
South Wales	16,932	158	15,946	154	12,605	149
England and Wales	447,267	160	441,819	169	392,763	177

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s 143(2).
[2] Magistrates courts data only. Fines given at the Crown court total nationally (England and Wales) less than 10 each year.
[3] As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.
Notes:
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Self-Defence

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice by what means he intends to gather views from the general public as part of the review of the law of self-defence. [166012]

Maria Eagle: Ministers and officials have taken account of wider public views on the law of self-defence from a number of sources. This has included paying careful attention to the range of correspondence from the public on this issue, before and after the announcement of a review by the Secretary of State for Justice, received both directly from the public and through Members of Parliament. The review has also considered wider public debate on this subject, including in Parliament, where it has been the subject of four private Members' Bills since 2003. Contributions to those debates have reflected wider public feeling.

In addition, Ministers are discussing this area of the law with practitioners, including the Crown Prosecution Service and the Association of Chief Police Officers, whose officers deal with members of the public directly in these cases. We are also seeking wider views through discussion with members of the Opposition. The Government's aim is to conclude a review in time to bring forward amendments to the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill before it completes its consideration in the House of Commons. This swift timetable means that a formal public consultation is not feasible.

Terrorism

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people convicted of terrorist offences have committed further crimes *(a)* since being released and *(b)* while on licence in each of the last three years. [163727]

Maria Eagle: Reoffending by discharged prisoners is measured annually on the basis of those discharged in the first quarter of every year. On this basis, only one person convicted with a terrorist offence under the Terrorism Acts of 2000 and 2006 has been discharged/released during this period.

Victim Support Schemes

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* the Victim Support scheme on Teesside and *(b)* other support schemes for victims of crime. [166591]

Maria Eagle: Victim Support carried out a service review of the scheme in Teesside this year which concluded that the scheme was performing satisfactorily.

Support schemes for victims of crime funded by Government grants are subject to terms and conditions and detailed monitoring arrangements.

Wormwood Scrubs: Telephones

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to inmates was of using payphones in HMP Wormwood Scrubs in each of the last 10 years for *(a)* UK and *(b)* overseas calls. [166015]

Maria Eagle: There is a national contract with British Telecom for HM Prison Service public sector prisons which sets the cost of calls for all prisons. Records are available dating back to the introduction of pin-phones to HMP Wormwood Scrubs in 2003. Information for the remaining period could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

From 2003 to the present date the cost of national and local calls within the UK is identical at 11p per minute (10p minimum charge for 55 seconds plus 1p for each 5.5 seconds or part thereof).

BT International calls are charged at rates ranging from 75p per minute to £3 per minute, depending on the destination of the call.

HMP Wormwood Scrubs is one of around 75 establishments which also operate the authorised international calling card system. The card can be purchased by prisoners through the prison shop and is available in two dominations, currently £3 and £5,

Rates to each country are set out in Chapter 4 of Prison Service Order 4400, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Calls to mobiles within the UK are charged at the following rates:

	Pence
Monday to Friday 08.01 to 18.00	63.0
Monday to Thursday 18.01 to 08.00	37.5
Friday 18.01 to 24.00	37.5
00.01 Saturday to 24.00 Sunday	19.0

Young Offenders

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to increase the time spent by young offenders in the youth prison estate *(a)* playing team sports, *(b)* on educational activity and *(c)* outside cells. [166172]

Maria Eagle: Young people in young offender institution accommodation commissioned by the Youth Justice Board must be given 25 hours' learning per week and spend less than 14 hours per day locked in their room. Physical education—often with opportunity for team sports—is provided both within the learning hours and in recreation. There are no plans to increase the hours given to learning and time out of room.

Young Offenders: Drugs

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of persons in young offender institutions are drug addicts. [166171]

Mr. Hanson: Data on the number of prisoners in young offender institutions, who are drug dependent is not recorded. Instead, the National Offender Management Service relies on epidemiological research which has previously shown 76 per cent. of young male offenders aged 18-21 assessed (within a young offender institution) as being dependent on at least one drug.

HEALTH

St Helier Hospital: Doctors

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many student doctors were based at St. Helier hospital, Surrey in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [164056]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department.

St Helier Hospital: Hospital Beds

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reductions there have been in the number of beds at St Helier hospital, Surrey in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [164052]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally by the Department.

St Helier Hospital: ICT

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the full cost was of the installation of the centralised computer booking system at St Helier hospital, Surrey. [164057]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally by the Department. It is for the local national health service to decide on information technology systems.

Ambulance Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to ambulance trusts on the management and roles of emergency care practitioners. [162616]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not issued guidance to ambulance trusts on the management and roles of emergency care practitioners. However, there are a number of reports and documents that will help the national health service to develop the roles of this important staff group. In particular, the Modernisation Agency published a report in 2004 to raise awareness of the role of emergency care practitioners and their potential impact and Skills for Health has recently published a framework document "Competence and Curriculum Framework for the Emergency Care Practitioner" (July 2007).

Ambulance Services: South East Coast Strategic Health Authority

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1162W, on Ambulance Services, South East Coast Strategic Health Authority, if he will list the publications to which the answer refers; and if he will place in the Library copies of such publications. [164563]

Dawn Primarolo: As stated in my answer of 17 October, this is a matter for the local national health service. I have therefore asked the chief executive of West Sussex primary care trust to write to the hon. Member about this matter.

Aortic Aneurysm: Males

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what analysis he has made of the *(a)* merits and *(b)* costs of screening men aged 65 years or over for aortic aneurysm; [163681]

(2) what estimate he has made of how many lives might be saved each year if universal screening for aortic aneurysm in men aged 65 years or over was available across the national health service; [163682]

(3) with reference to the answer of 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1192W, on abdominal aortic aneurysm, what further steps he has taken following

the recommendation of the National Screening Committee that a national screening policy should be implemented by his Department for abdominal aortic aneurysm. [163999]

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to introduce a screening programme for abdominal aortic aneurysms in older men. [163935]

Ann Keen: The United Kingdom National Screening Committee (NSC) has advised that screening men aged 65 for abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) can be recommended in principle. Before making its recommendation, the NSC considered the evidence, merits and costs of introducing the screening programme against its internationally recognised criteria.

Detailed work is being undertaken in developing proposals for AAA screening in England, to assess the practical implications. This assessment is taking into account the likely impact of a screening programme on existing healthcare services and the infrastructure and staffing requirements in order for a programme to be safely introduced. Such assessments are undertaken before major screening policy decisions are made.

Initial findings have suggested that around 700 deaths could be prevented 10 years after screening is introduced, rising eventually to around 1,600 per year.

Arhythmic Death Syndrome

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is being done to raise awareness of and tackle, sudden arhythmic death syndrome. [164004]

Ann Keen: In 2005, the Department issued an additional Chapter to the Coronary Heart Disease National Service Framework (CHD NSF), launched in 2000. The additional chapter, chapter 8, covers arhythmias and sudden cardiac death. Chapter 8 sets out quality requirements and markers of good practice in developing and delivering services in this area.

Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust: Hygiene

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of standards of cleanliness at Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Hospital Trust; and if he will make a statement. [162989]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the national health service's Patient Environment Action Team (PEAT) assessments for levels of cleanliness at Barnet hospital and Chase Farm hospital from 2001.

	Barnet hospital	*Chase Farm hospital*
2001	Amber	Amber
2002	Green	Amber
2003	Amber	Amber
2004	Acceptable	Acceptable
2005	Acceptable	Acceptable
2006	Excellent	Acceptable
2007	Excellent	Good

Notes:
From 2001-03 the scale was Green, Amber, Red—Green = good, amber = acceptable. From 2004 onwards the scale changed to a 5-point one of Excellent, Good, Acceptable, Poor, Unacceptable.
Since 2005, assessments have been undertaken by self assessment with a percentage independently validated.

Cancer: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times were for *(a)* cancer and *(b)* cardiac operations in Copeland in each of the last five years. [163019]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the requested format. In England since March 2005, no patient has waited for more than three months for cardiac surgery. As at June 2007, 95.7 per cent. of patients at the North Cumbria Acute Hospital NHS Trust received their cancer treatment within two months of referral.

Childbirth: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies were born while their mothers were in transit to *(a)* Eastbourne District General Hospital and *(b)* Conquest Hospital Hastings in the latest period for which figures are available. [165329]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

Chiropody: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are to improve NHS chiropody services in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex. [165310]

Dawn Primarolo: It is for local primary care trusts in conjunction with other local stakeholders and their strategic health authorities to commission services for the local community, including chiropody services.

The hon. Member may wish to contact the chief executive of East Sussex and Downs Weald Primary Care Trust, which commissions services for Eastbourne and East Sussex.

Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have held with the Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection since 21 September; whether they have discussed the European Commission's proposals for a directive on cross-border health care; and if he will make a statement. [166579]

Dawn Primarolo: There have been ongoing discussions for several years within the European Union (EU) about the provision of cross-border health care in the light of existing case law on patient mobility. The Secretary of State will next meet the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection on 20 November to discuss, among other issues, the forthcoming proposal regarding a general framework for the provision of cross-border health care within the EU. In future discussions

on the proposal, the Department will work to protect the United Kingdom's interests, emphasising the need for any European legislation in this area to be proportionate.

Community Nurses

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how the additional £30 million for the Family Nurse Partnership that his Department announced on 31 October 2007 was allocated between NHS trusts; [162761]

(2) how many *(a)* additional families will benefit and *(b)* additional hours of nurses' time will be provided as a result of the additional £30 million that his Department announced on 31 October 2007 for the Family Nurse Partnership. [162762]

Ann Keen: We are currently considering options for expansion of the Family Nurse Partnership in England following the allocation to the programme of an additional £30 million over the comprehensive spending review period. We expect to make an announcement before the end of the year.

Dental Services: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental practices in Barnet treat NHS patients; how many patients in Barnet are unable to access NHS dental treatment; how many dental practices ceased to provide NHS treatment in each of the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [162992]

Ann Keen: The National Health Service Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) Dental Services Division (DSD) can only provide validated information on national health service dental practices at disproportionate cost.

Since April 2006, patients no longer have to be registered with a dental practice to receive NHS care and treatment. The closest equivalent current measure is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') in a given area over a 24-month period, for that area. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The numbers of patients seen in the 24 month periods ending 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table C1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07" report. Information is available at Strategic Health Authority and Primary Care Trusts per area in England.

The number of NHS dentists as at 31 March 2007 are available in Table E2 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07" report.

Information is available at SHA and PCT area in England.

The report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

Dental Services: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental surgeries offer free dental care in West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency; and how many did so in May 1997. [162067]

Ann Keen: The National Health Service Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) Dental Services Division (DSD) can only provide validated information on the number of national health service dental practices within a constituency offering NHS dental care at disproportionate cost. Some NHS treatment attracts patient charges.

The number of dentists is available in Annex G of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England 31 March 2006". This report has been placed in the Library.

Information is available at strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) area in England 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2006.

Information is based on the old contractual arrangements. The report is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006.

The number of NHS dentists year ending 31 March 2007 are available in Table E2 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07" report. Information is available at SHA and PCT area in England.

Since April 2006, patients no longer have to be registered with a dental practice to receive NHS care and treatment.

The closest equivalent current measure is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') in a given area over a 24-month period, for that area. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The numbers of patients seen in the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table C1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07" report. Information is available at SHA and PCT area in England.

This report has been placed in the Library and is also available at

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607.

Dental Services: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were registered for NHS dentistry services in the *(a)* Cumbria primary care trust and *(b)* Morecambe Bay primary care trust in each year since 1997. [162019]

Ann Keen: Since April 2006, patients no longer have to be registered with a dental practice to receive national health service care and treatment.

The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') in a given area over a 24-month period, for that area. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Patients registered with an NHS dentist are available in Annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". This report has been placed in the Library.

Information is available at strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) area in England 31 March 1997—31 March 2006.

Information is based on the old contractual arrangements. The report is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collecttions/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

As from 1 October 2006, Morecambe Bay PCT was split and the rural sector has been integrated into Cumbria PCT. Carlisle and District PCT, Eden Valley PCT and West Cumbria PCT also came together then to form the new Cumbria PCT. The remaining sector of Morecambe Bay PCT integrated into North Lancashire PCT.

The numbers of patients seen in the 24 month periods ending 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table C1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07" report. Information is available at SHA and PCT area in England.

This report has been placed in the House of Commons Library and is also available on-line at

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

Both reports are published by the Information Centre for health and social care.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists on NHS contracts were registered in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland in each year since 2001. [163014]

Ann Keen: Numbers of national health service dentists at parliamentary constituency, primary care trusts (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) area as at 31 March 2001 to 2006 are available in Annex E and G of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England 31 March 2006".

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements. This report has been placed in the Library and is available at

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

The numbers of NHS dentists at PCT and SHA level as at 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report. Constituency level data can only be made available at disproportionate cost.

This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. The report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The inclusion of dentists on trust led contracts in the data collection following the 2006 reforms means that data collected since April 2006 cannot be directly compared with data collected under the previous system.

My hon. Friend should note that the numbers quoted are headcounts and do not differentiate between full and part-time dentists. Nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Both reports have been published by the Information Centre for health and social care.

Dental Services: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients are registered with NHS dentists in Eastbourne constituency. [165339]

Ann Keen: The information requested by the hon. Member is not held centrally by the Department.

Since April 2006, patients no longer have to be registered with a national heath service dental practice to receive NHS care and treatment.

The closest equivalent current measure is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') in a given area over a 24-month period, for that area. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The numbers of patients seen in the 24 month periods ending 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table C1 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07 report. Information is available for strategic health authority and primary care trust areas, in England, but not at constituency level.

The report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

Dental Services: Fees and Charges

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the scale of charges NHS dentists are entitled to charge NHS patients is; and if he will make a statement. [162554]

Ann Keen: There are three standard charges for all national health service primary care dental treatment. The Band One course of treatment is priced at £15.90. This covers an examination, diagnosis (eg: x-rays), advice on how to prevent future problems, and a scale and polish if necessary. Urgent treatment also costs £15.90.

The Band Two course of treatment is priced at £43.60. This covers everything listed in Band One, plus any further treatment such as fillings, root canal work or the extraction of one or more teeth.

The Band Three course of treatment is priced at £194.00. This covers everything listed in Bands One and Two, plus crowns, dentures or bridges.

These are the only charges dentists are entitled to charge fee paying patients for NHS treatment. Prior to the new patient charges introduced by the dental reforms, there were over 400 charges linked to individual items of treatment. The reforms have halved the maximum possible patient charge from £389 under the old system, to £194.

However, not all NHS patients must pay for their treatment. Children, pregnant women and people on income support are all exempt.

Dental Services: Finance

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what Government *(a)* grants and *(b)* loans were made to NHS dental clinics in each NHS trust in

each of the last five years; whether conditions on practising within the NHS were attached to each; and if he will make a statement. [163402]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. Conditions on loans and grants are a matter for the primary care trust making the loan or grant.

Dental Services: Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there were per head of population in each English constituency in each year since 1997. [165282]

Ann Keen: The information required is not available at constituency level. However, numbers of persons per NHS dentist at strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) level as at 31 March 1997 annually to 31 March 2006 are available in Annex F of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England 31 March 2006".

This information is based on contractual arrangements prior to 31 March 2006. This report is available in the Library and is available at

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006.

The numbers of national health service dentists per 100,000 persons at PCT and SHA level as at 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07" report.

This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. The report is available in the Library and is available at www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607.

However, data collected since April 2006 cannot be directly compared with data collected under the previous system owing to the inclusion of dentists on trust led contracts in the data collection following the 2006 reforms.

Published numbers are headcounts and do not differentiate between full and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Both reports have been published by the information centre for health and social care.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's targets are for answering correspondence from *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public. [165696]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Cabinet Office publishes guidance for Departments on handling correspondence from Members of Parliament, Members of the House of Lords, MEPs, and Members of Devolved Assemblies. The target set by the Cabinet Office for responding to correspondence from hon. Members is a maximum of 20 working days. The Department target for replying to correspondence from both hon. Members and members of the public is 20 working days.

Departmental Cost-Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what efficiency savings projects his Department put in place under the Spending Review 2004 targets; on what date each was initiated; how much each was expected to contribute to the target; how much was saved by each; and if he will make a statement. [164176]

Mr. Bradshaw: Details of projects contributing to the Department's efficiency target for the 2004 Spending Review (SR04) are provided in our Efficiency Technical Note (ETN), published in December 2005, a copy of which is available in the Library, and is also available on the Department's website at

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4124041

The ETN sets out the predicted contribution of each of the main groups of projects (workstreams). It also indicates the scale of expected contribution for each project. It does not specifically indicate individual project start dates.

The ETN makes clear that the efficiency programme would continue to evolve during the delivery period with the inclusion of opportunities identified after 2005, and potential changes in the relative contributions of different workstreams and projects.

We delayed republishing the ETN pending final agreements with HM Treasury and the National Audit Office regarding a few areas of measurement, which have now been agreed. The updated document is almost complete and will be published prior to our next planned reporting of progress in our autumn performance report in December. It will include project start dates. A copy of the final publication will also be placed on the Department's website and is in the Library.

Contributing projects had delivered the following savings at the end of June 2007.

Workstream	*Project*	*Contribution (£ million)*
Procuremeat	Supply chain projects	970
Procurement	Pharmaceuticals	1625
Productive time	Process improvement	1733
Productive time	Input costs	272
Productive time	Time releasing	31
Social care	Local projects	518
Corporate services	Corporate services	58
Public funding and regulation	DH operating costs	57
Public funding and regulation	Arms length bodies	206
Public funding and regulation	Strategic health authority and primary care trust restructuring	54
Total		5524

Note:
Some figures include in-year estimates of 2006-07 contribution that will be validated at the year end.

Departmental Health Insurance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies have private health insurance provided as part of their employment package. [165046]

Mr. Bradshaw: None of the officials in the Department or its agencies have private health insurance provided as part of their employment packages.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make available the internet protocol addresses of computers in his Department used by *(a)* special advisers, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* press officers. [164607]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not release IP addresses of its computers as this could facilitate an attack by someone with malicious intent.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to page 20 of his Department's resource accounts for 2006-07, which NHS organisations contributed to his Department's capital underspend in 2006-07 by delaying capital investment because they were in the process of financial recovery; and what the value of the capital underspend for each organisation was. [165712]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for strategic health authorities, working with organisations in their economy, to agree plans for both revenue and capital investment and, where appropriate, any plans needed to achieve financial recovery.

Dermatology

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of regional variations in financing of dermatology services for patients with skin disease; and whether regional funding formulae take into account any aspect of dermatological care provision. [165654]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the alleged regional variations in funding for dermatology services. The regional funding formula does not specifically take into account dermatological care provision.

It is the responsibility of local health bodies to fund dermatological services, from their general allocations, to meet the needs of their local population.

Dermatology: Waiting Lists

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of *(a)* the average and *(b)* the maximum length of time a patient waited for a first dermatology outpatient appointment in (i) 2002 and (ii) 2007. [166497]

Ann Keen: The information is available in the following tables:

Median waiting times (weeks) for General Practitioner (GP) written referrals seen for dermatology in England in 2002 and 2007

2002	8.12
2007	5.68

	Maximum waiting times (weeks) for GP written referrals seen for dermatology in England in 2002 and 2007	*Number of GP written referrals seen who waited for maximum waiting time for dermatology in England*
2002	26+	27,347
2007	17+	240

Note: The median is reported rather than the mean as the distribution of waiting times is skewed towards the right: the mean would be affected by outliers. *Source:* Department of Health Form QMO8rs

Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will provide the data supporting Table 2.1 on page 11 of his Department's evidence to the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' remuneration (i) as presented and (ii) including agency costs. [163371]

Ann Keen: Table 1 shows data as presented in table 2.1 of the Department's evidence to the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' remuneration and table 2 shows the data including agency costs.

Table 1: Trends in the hospital and community health service (HCHS) paybill

Million

	Doctors and Dentists' Review Body	*NHS Pay Review Body*	*Total HCHS*
2003-04	6,142	20,825	26,967
2004-05	7,077	24,425	31,502
2005-06	7,571	26,443	34,015
2006-07	7,930	27,497	35,428

Notes:
1. Part of the 2004-05 growth is due to a transfer of pension responsibilities from the HM Treasury to Department of Health.
2. Figures exclude agency costs.

Source:
Paybill reference: 071012

Table 2: Trends in the HCHS paybill including agency costs

Million

	Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body	*NHS Pay Review Body*	*Total HCHS*	*Total HCHS including agency costs*
2003-04	6,142	20,825	26,967	28,413
2004-05	7,077	24,425	31,502	32,855
2005-06	7,571	26,443	34,015	35,252
2006-07	7,930	27,497	35,428	36,399

Note:
Part of the 2004-05 growth is due to a transfer of pension responsibilities from the HM Treasury to Department of Health.

Doctors: Training

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many training places he expects will be provided for registrar group doctors in 2008, broken down by region and specialty. [165687]

Ann Keen: There will be over 18,000 training posts at levels ST1 to ST4 from August 2008, of which over 10,000 are already filled by applicants who successfully applied for run-through training places in 2007.

The Department estimates that there will be approximately 8,000 training places advertised in 2008. Final details are being discussed with the Deaneries.

Recruitment to specialty training will start on 5 January 2008 and we will publicise the details and breakdown prior to that. We intend to publish the information on the Modernising Medical Careers website for the benefit of applicants.

Domestic Accidents: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many home hazard assessments were performed by the East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust in each year since 1997. [165335]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Eastbourne Hospital: Cleaning Services

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Patient Environment Action Team scores for cleanliness were in Eastbourne district general hospital in each year since 1997. [165340]

Dawn Primarolo: The Patient Environmental Action Team (PEAT) scores for cleanliness did not exist until 2000. The first PEAT results were published in 2001.

The following table shows the PEAT assessments for levels of cleanliness at Eastbourne district general hospital from 2001.

	Rating
2001	Green
2002	Green
2003	Green
2004	Good
2005	Good
2006	Good
2007	Good

Note: From 2001-03 the scale was green, amber, red - green = good, amber = acceptable, red =poor.

From 2004 onwards the scale changed to a five-point one of excellent, good, acceptable, poor, and unacceptable.

Since 2005, assessments have been undertaken by self-assessment with a percentage independently validated.

Fibromyalgia

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed as suffering from fibromyalgia; what progress has been made in identifying the causes of fibromyalgia and developing a treatment for it; what research his Department is supporting on fibromyalgia; and if he will make a statement. [165600]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of people living with fibromyalgia is not collected.

We are not aware of any progress having been made on the causes of, or treatment for, fibromyalgia.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's expenditure on health research has been allocated to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual projects supported in the NHS, including a significant number concerned with fibromyalgia, can be found on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research. The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is not currently funding research specifically on fibromyalgia although some basic research currently being undertaken will help develop our understanding of the condition.

General Practitioners: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in Hemel Hempstead constituency have not been able to register directly with a general practitioner's surgery and have had to register centrally since 1997. [164111]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect data on individuals who approach their local primary care trust (PCT) directly for help and advice on registration with a local general practitioner (GP) practice. Any individual is free to approach a GP practice near to where he/she is living and apply to join the practice's list of national health service patients. Where a patient is having trouble registering, a PCT can use its powers to allocate a person to a general practice's list of patients.

General Practitioners: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs in Eastbourne were invited by their primary care trusts to attend courses to update their skills in each year since 1997. [165337]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally.

Health Education: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on *(a)* alcohol awareness and *(b)* drug awareness campaigns in Copeland over the last five years. [163017]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

The provision of services for drug and alcohol treatment in Copeland, including awareness campaigns, is commissioned through the Drug and Alcohol Action Team Partnership, using both ring-fenced Government grants and budgets and mainstream primary care trust and county council resources.

Health Services: Barnet

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the impact of inward migration on health services in the Chipping Barnet constituency over the last 10 years. [164620]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a matter for the local national health service. It is for the local health organisations to decide how best to serve their local communities.

Health Services: Scotland

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with a home address in Scotland were treated in NHS facilities in England in each year since 2004. [165283]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. The data for 2006-07 are not yet available. The following table shows the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) and patients with Scottish postcodes who received treatment under the national health service in England. The data are for NHS hospitals in England, for the data years 2004-05 and 2005-06.

	Strategic health authority (SHA) of residence description	
	All other SHA of residence	*Scotland*
2004-05		
Total episodes	13,699,500	7,928
Total patients	7,620,172	5,314
2005-06		
Total episodes	14,416,891	8,368
Total patients	7,882,214	5,406

Notes:
1. Data quality
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
2. Finished consultant episode (FCE)
An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
3. Patient counts
Patient counts are based on the unique patient identifier HESID. This identifier is derived based on patient's date of birth, postcode, sex, local patient identifier and NHS number, using an agreed algorithm. Where data are incomplete, HESID might erroneously link episodes or fail to recognise episodes for the same patient. Care is therefore needed, especially where duplicate records persist in the data. The patient count cannot be summed across a table where patients may have episodes in more than one cell.
4. Health authority (HA) of residence
This derived field contains the code for the HA in which the patient lived immediately before admission.
Resident SHA (Re-SHA) is derived from the patient's postcode in the field home address. (This may not be the area where treatment took place). If home address is not recognised, Re-SHA may be derived from the health authority of residence notified by the hospital.
5. Primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) data quality
PCT and SHA data was added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner practice and SHA of general practitioner practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Impaired Hearing

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were registered as *(a)* partially deaf and *(b)* deaf in (i) 1985, (ii) 1990, (iii) 1995, (iv) 2000 and (v) 2007 in (1) South Tyneside, (2) the North East and (3) England. [163159]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The following tables show the number of people registered as deaf or hard of hearing for the years available from 1986 to 2007 in England, the North East and South Tyneside, published by The Information Centre (IC) for health and social care.

Number of people registered as deaf from 1986 to 2007 England, as at 31 March

Councils with Social Services Responsibilities	*1986*	*1989*	*1992*	*1995*	*1998[2]*	*2001*	*2004*	*2007*
England[1]	34,100	37,900	41,800	45,500	50,100	50,300	55,000	54,500
North East[1]	2,250	2,350	2,850	2,600	2,550	3,450	2,850	2,850
South Tyneside	65	45	35	115	100	85	90	90

[1] The England and Regional totals are estimates based on SSDA910 returns from councils with social services responsibilities.
[2] In April 1996 the local authority structure within the North East region changed and Unitary Authorities were introduced, this does not affect the North East Region totals.
[3] The large rise in the 2001 North East figure is explained by evidence provided by Durham local authority that the number of people registered as hard of hearing were also recorded as deaf in this year, this was corrected for the following collection but revised data was not provided.
Source:
IC triennial return SSDA910

Number of people registered as hard of hearing from 1986 to 2007 England, as at 31 March

Councils with Social Services Responsibilities	*1986*	*1989*	*1992*	*1995*	*[2]1998*	*2001*	*2004*	*2007*
England[1]	63,400	70,300	95,300	125,900	139,500	144,600	158,900	164,600
North East[1]	5,150	7,100	11,450	13550	[3]13,200	13,600	15,150	14,750
South Tyneside	125	90	135	225	180	155	120	90

[1] The England and Regional totals are estimates based on SSDA910 returns from councils with social services responsibilities.
[2] In April 1996 the local authority structure within the North East region changed and Unitary Authorities were introduced, this does not affect the North East Region totals.
[3] Redcar and Cleveland were unable to provide data for 1998. Therefore the figure for the North East Region is the sum of the raw data and has not been estimated.
Source:
IC triennial return SSDA910

Hospitals: Telephones

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the children's wards on which charges are made for the use of telephones; and what the *(a)* peak and *(b)* off-peak rates for calls made are in each such ward. [162233]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is not party to the contracts which exist between the bedside televisions and telephones service providers and the individual national health service trusts.

However, the Department understands that generally, where a bedside telephone is available, the charge to the outgoing caller is 10p per minute (20p minimum, in some cases).

The charge to the incoming caller varies according to the service provider providing the service but in most cases it is 39p per minute off peak rate and 49p minute peak rate.

Access to free televisions in day rooms and hospital payphones still exists as an alternative.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority: Public Appointments

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness with which the former Chief Executive of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority carried out his functions; and if he will make a statement. [165194]

Dawn Primarolo: Chief executives of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) are employees of, and appointed by, the authority itself. Over a number of years, the HFEA has established a highly respected reputation in the United Kingdom and internationally as a world-leading regulator in the field of embryology and assisted fertilisation.

Independent Reconfiguration Panel

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what date and for what reason the decision was taken to remove the requirement that one third of the members of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel be citizen and patient representatives; [162198]

(2) what form the annual review of the effectiveness and operation of his Department's Independent Reconfiguration Panel takes; [162246]

(3) how many staff are employed in the press office of his Department's Independent Reconfiguration Panel; broken down by payband; [162247]

(4) whether he or his predecessors have ever acted against the advice of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel. [162248]

Ann Keen: The Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) is the independent expert on NHS service change. The panel was established in 2003 to give advice to the Secretary of State on contested proposals for health service changes in England.

The Secretary of State makes the final decision on any disputed proposal after reviewing a final report containing the IRP's recommendations in full, which are submitted to him before publication.

The panel membership since it was set up has comprised of an equal balance of clinical, managerial and lay representation. There are no plans to change this. When the IRP considers it necessary, additional expert advice is also sought to inform the panel's work.

The IRP holds an annual review meeting with senior representatives from the Department and publishes an annual review of its business. Business reviews for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are available on the IRP website at www/irpanel.org.uk. A review of business for 2006-07 will be made available shortly.

Media work on behalf of the IRP is contracted to the Central Office of Information (COI).

The Secretary of State, as a matter of course, requests advice from the IRP on contested closures referred to him by local OSCs. To date the advice of the IRP has been accepted in full. Copies of all IRP reports are available at:
www.irpanel.org.uk

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date he plans to publish the national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic. [166415]

Dawn Primarolo: The national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic is due to be published shortly.

Lung Cancer: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to implement a National Lung Cancer Screening programme. [166376]

Ann Keen: The national health service cancer plan states that the Government will introduce new screening programmes where it is clear that screening would reduce mortality.

There is no clear evidence that screening for lung cancer would save lives but the UK National Screening Committee (NSC) keeps lung cancer screening closely under review.

There is an increasing weight of evidence in support of introducing a trial for the screening of lung cancer. The Department is leading work on behalf of the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) to commission research on the feasibility of a United Kingdom trial of computerised tomography screening for lung cancer.

The National Institute for Health Research health technology assessment programme has issued a commissioning brief, taking full account of the trials already under way in the United States and Europe, with a view to funding feasibility studies as soon as possible. If there is progression to an exploratory trial and then a full randomised controlled trial, these will take a number of years to complete.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust: Negligence

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incidents of professional malpractice concerning employees of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust were reported to *(a)* the General Medical Council, *(b)* the Nursing and Midwifery Council, *(c)* the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, *(d)* the Health Professions Council and *(e)* other professional regulators by (i) NHS trusts, (ii) ambulance services, (iii) mental health organisations, (iv) primary care trusts and (v) members of the public in the period between April 2004 and September 2006. [163469]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect information on incidents of professional malpractice centrally, and is not directly involved in the disciplining of individual health care professionals.

Information on incidents of professional malpractice concerning employees of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust could be sought from the individual regulatory bodies.

Manchester Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust Community Services teams' psychiatric emergency and assessment unit has opened. [163068]

Ann Keen: The North West Strategic Health Authority reports that the psychiatric emergency and assessment unit (unit) is partly open and currently accommodates the accident and emergency mental health liaison and bed management teams. Staff are currently being recruited to provide the full range of services for the people of Manchester including facilities to support patients for up to 12 hours while assessment and community support is put in place. It is expected that the full range of services will be available by the end of January 2008.

Manchester Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust: Mental Health Services

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients the Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust Community Service Team's psychiatric emergency assessment referral and liaison unit is expected to assess. [165460]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are informed that the planned capacity of the psychiatric emergency assessment review and liaison unit at Manchester Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust is about 400 patients a year, but there is sufficient flexibility to manage up to 500 patients if needed.

Maternity Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the quality of data available that relates to maternity services. [163277]

Ann Keen: Our major sources of information relating to maternity services are the Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES), and the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) data relating to the number of births registered. According to the NHS Information Centre, HES records 70-75 per cent. of all births while the ONS data are more accurate as a measure of the number of babies being born.

The Information Centre for health and social care publishes annual maternity activity statistics which combines detailed HES information specific to maternity service with the registered birth information from ONS. Validation is applied to the data before publication. Copies of the NHS maternity statistics, England, 2004-05 are available in the Library.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make a statement on the future provision of antenatal services available to patients who are expecting a multiple birth; [163889]

(2) what guidance has been issued to maternity units to ensure that newborn twins, triplets or quads are cared for in the same *(a)* unit and *(b)* hospital. [163890]

Ann Keen: The Department has not issued any guidance specifically on the care of multiple-birth babies.

Neonatal managed clinical networks have established a more structured collaborative approach to caring for newborn babies.

While priority should be given to keeping mothers and their babies together, there are times when their individual needs take priority and that may mean that they are cared for in different hospitals. It is for networks to agree appropriate protocols, standards and pathways of care for use within their local area.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* midwives and *(d)* health visitors receive in the care and treatment of patients expecting a multiple birth. [163891]

Ann Keen: The royal colleges are responsible for setting the curriculum for specialties to ensure that high educational standards are met in the interests of safe and responsible practice, assessment of training and programmes of education and training. They play a leading role in the delivery of high-quality patient care by setting standards of medical practice and promoting clinical excellence.

The colleges are independent bodies who advise and work with Government, the public, patients and other professionals to improve health and health care. They have their own exacting standards and examinations, exercising a direct influence on the quality of training and the appointment of consultants in all medical specialties.

Post-registration training needs for national health service staff are determined against local NHS priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses informed by local delivery plans and the needs of the service.

Access to training is affected by a number of factors such as the availability of funding, whether staff can be released and the availability of appropriate training interventions, mentors and assessors. It would not be practical for the centre to be prescriptive on this.

Medicine: Education

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many medical schools train students without using cadavers; and if he will make a statement. [165081]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. Teaching methods for medical students are the responsibility of the General Medical Council and the university medical schools.

MRSA

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many MRSA infections were recorded in each trust in each of the last six months. [162851]

Ann Keen: The mandatory surveillance system operated run by the Health Protection Agency provides data on the number of reports of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bloodstream infections (bacteraemias). All acute NHS trusts in England are obliged to report on all cases of bloodstream infections processed by their laboratories regarding when or how the infection was acquired.

The number of MRSA bloodstream infections for NHS Acute Trusts for the first two quarters of 2007 is available at

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/Mandatory_Results.htm

NHS: Dental Services

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dental patients have been deregistered in each of the last five years in *(a)* England, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* Suffolk. [166154]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

Information is available and regularly published on the total number of patients receiving NHS dental services.

Under the old contractual arrangements which were in place until 2006, patients had to register with an individual dentist. Under the new contractual arrangements, patients do not have to be registered with a dentist to receive national health service care. The closest equivalent measure to "registration" is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') in a given area over a 24-month period, expressed as a percentage of the estimated population for that area. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Annex A of "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England 31 March 2006" provides primary care trust (PCT) data on the numbers of patients registered with an NHS dentist as at 31 March 1997 and each subsequent year to 31 March 2006. This is available in the library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

The numbers of patients seen in the 24 month periods ending 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table C1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07" report. Information is available at strategic health authority and PCT area in England. This report is available in the Library and is also available at

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

Both reports have been published by the Information Centre for health and social care.

This data show that access to dental services has remained broadly stable following the reforms in 2006.

NHS: Voluntary Organisations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy for every health trust in England to have a Compact champion to increase NHS involvement in local compacts; and if he will make a statement. [162441]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There are no plans to require primary care trusts, national health service trusts and foundations trusts to identify a Compact champion.

The Department's commitment to the principles of the Compact on 1 December 2006 was refreshed in a joint statement I made with Stuart Etherington, chief

executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). The "Commissioning framework for health and well-being", published on 6 March 2007, reflects the principles of the Compact in positioning the third sector as an important contributor to the commissioning and provision of high-quality, responsive services, and promoting a fair playing field for all providers. The Department is committed to working with the Commissioner for the Compact, other Government Departments and third-sector voluntary and community organisations in the promotion of the Compact in the context of health and social care.

Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whom he intends to consult in respect of the renegotiation of the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme; [163683]

(2) what meetings he or Ministers and officials from his Department have held with representatives of the pharmaceutical industry on the reopened negotiations about the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme; whom they met on each occasion; and if he will publish a consultation document on the matter. [163685]

Dawn Primarolo: Since the Secretary of State's announcement in August that he intended to renegotiate the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme, there have been a number of meetings at both ministerial and official level with the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry and branded pharmaceutical companies. Most recently, representatives of the pharmaceutical industry met the Secretary of State, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Minister for Competitiveness on 1 November.

Negotiations on a new Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme will take place between the Department and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry on behalf of the branded pharmaceutical industry, and we will seek the views of other organisations as appropriate.

The Government have no plans to publish a consultation document.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his objectives are in relation to the reopened negotiations on the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme; when he expects to publish the Government's substantive response to the Office of Fair Trading's market study on the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [163684]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are seeking to negotiate a new voluntary agreement taking into account the principles set out in the Government's interim response to the Office of Fair Trading's report on the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme:

delivering value for money;

encouraging and rewarding innovation;

assisting the uptake of new medicines; and

providing stability, sustainability and predictability.

West Cumberland Hospital: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of hospital-acquired infections have been diagnosed at West Cumberland Hospital in Whitehaven in the last five years. [163020]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the requested format. However, West Cumberland hospital is part of the North Cumbria Acute Hospital NHS Trust for which the following information is available on methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), Clostridium difficile and glycopeptides-resistant enterococci bloodstream infections from the mandatory surveillance scheme run by the Health Protection Agency.

Meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bloodstream infection reports

April to March each year	*Number*
2001-02	26
2002-03	27
2003-04	22
2004-05	24
2005-06	26
2006-07	18

Clostridium difficile reports for patients aged 65 years and over

	Number
January – December 2004	112
January – December 2005	212
January – December 2006	254
January - June 2007	183

Glycopeptide-resistant enterococci bloodstream infection reports

October to September each year	*Number*
2003-04	0
2004-05	1
2005-06	1

Source:
Health Protection Agency, provisional data.

It is not known how many of these cases were acquired in hospital.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 22 November 2007

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised Civil Service Code. [162433]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed last year to reflect the provisions in the revised Civil Service Code. The procedures are brought to the attention of all staff annually. This year's reminder was issued in October.

Departmental Pay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people in his Department earned a salary over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167189]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Member to the "Resource Accounts" published on the Departments website for each of the years from 1999. The links for each year are shown in the table.

	Link
1999-2001 and 2000-01	http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/2C760A28-DB6B-49D8-9C2E-6137F8C7E029/0/resourceaccounting200001.pdf
2001-02	http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/E7AOC4B8-FC61-4CEF-9323-AD4C10F8A005/0/DCMSresourceacc0102.pdf
2003-04 and 2004-05	http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/997DF8D1-7D80-41EA-916A-2D2592407D37/0/Resourceaccounts0405.pdf
2005-06	http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/77492537-CA41-47DO-B190-OE9871F526E3/0/Resource_accounts_2005_2006.pdf
2006-07	http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/8493F432-266C-4690-85CO-DE4FDFDC4D50/0/dcmsresourceaccounts_200607_pdf

Three staff were recorded as having salaries over £75,000 during the 1997-98 financial year. A more detailed breakdown is not available.

Departmental Secondment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from his Department in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [167282]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I am arranging to deposit in the House Libraries, tables that breakdown secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; and how many staff were seconded in each year.

We are unable to provide information on how long each secondment lasted as we do not hold this information centrally and would only be able to provide it at disproportionate cost.

The Department incurred no cost for the secondments going out of the Department as it is our policy is to seek reimbursement in full from the receiving organisation.

We are unable to provide information as to the cost of the secondments coming into the Department as this is not held centrally but by each Division within the Department and the information requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made on raising the awareness of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people on low incomes and *(c)* vulnerable individuals of digital switchover. [165149]

James Purnell: The figures from the Ofcom/Digital UK Switchover Tracker Survey showed that awareness of switchover had increased between Q2 2006 and Q2 2007 *(a)* among people aged 75 and above from 63 per cent. to 81 per cent., *(b)* among people on low incomes from 59 per cent. to 83 per cent. and *(c)* among people with disabilities from 68 per cent. to 90 per cent.

Between now and switchover, Digital UK will be communicating with every TV viewing household in the country to ensure they can prepare for the change. Digital UK is also mounting media campaigns, which get more intensive the nearer a region is to its switch—this is on billboards, newspapers, radio, TV etc. Digital UK's call centre offers advice on all aspects of switchover. This is complemented by its website, where a postcode checker offers precise information on present and post-switchover coverage and the options available for getting digital TV.

In addition, the Digital Switchover Help Scheme will be in touch with everyone who is either aged 75 and older or has a disability to provide them with assistance to go digital.

This work by both Digital UK and the Digital Switchover Help Scheme can be seen in the successful switch in Whitehaven.

Museums and Galleries: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on national and regional museums and galleries in each of the last five years. [165803]

James Purnell *[holding answer 19 November 2007]*: Funding in each of the last five years from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport for National and Regional Museums and Galleries is set out in the following table.

£ million

Museums	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Total grant in aid to DCMS sponsored museums and galleries[1]	268.1	279.45	285.95	296.7	320.06
Total grant in aid to the Museums Libraries and Archives Council for the Renaissance in the Regions programme	10.0	11.2	21.0	30.0	32.0

[1] Comprises grant-in-aid to the 22 sponsored museums

Sports: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department allocated to *(a)* community and *(b)* school sport in each year since 1990. [164311]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS does not directly fund community or school sport, but makes an annual grant in aid allocation to Sport England which then funds school and community projects.

It is not possible to provide the requested information back to 1990 because:

The National School Sports Strategy was launched in 2003; and

Sport England changed its budget management software at the start of 2001-02 and it does not have information before that date readily available.

A breakdown of awards made in the requested categories is as follows:

(a) Community Sport

	Exchequer (£ million)	Lottery (£ million)
2001	8.2	139.3
2002	9.3	172.3
2003	8.0	136.5
2004	12.1	111.4
2005	30.1	103.3
2006	33.6	86.8
2007	36.1	99.7
Total	137.4	849.3

(b) School Sport

	Exchequer (£ million)
2003	27.0
2004	38.0
2005	45.0
2006	44.8
2007	44.8
Total	199.6

It should be noted that following the Prime Minister's announcement in July of an extra £100 million for school sport, from 2008 we can begin to offer all children in England aged five to 16 five hours of sport per week, and three hours for young people aged 16 to 19.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials from her Office, broken down by grade, attended the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism on 15 November; and if she will make a statement. [167389]

Mr. Dhanda: The cross-government working group on anti-Semitism did not meet on the 15 November 2007. However, my officials and I met with representatives of the three Jewish organisations, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Jewish Leadership Council and the Community Security Trust, that form part of the working group to discuss the work of the group and other issues of concern to the Jewish Community.

Coastal Areas: Foreign Workers

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of migrant worker populations on the development of coastal towns; and if she will make a statement. [165332]

John Healey: A recent submission by the Home Office and DWP to the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs sets out the Government's most recent analysis of the economic and fiscal impact of immigration on the UK economy.

In the Government's Second Response to the Select Committee on Communities and Local Government's Report on Coastal Towns, published on 21 November 2007, my Department refers to a review it has recently commissioned of the issues, evidence-based and research needs concerning coastal towns.

Council Housing: Children

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to review the guidance issued to local authorities in regard to the allocation of social housing to families where child custody is shared. [166272]

Mr. Iain Wright: The code of guidance for local authorities on the allocation of accommodation does not provide advice on the allocation of social housing to families where child custody is shared. However, the homelessness code of guidance for local authorities does provide advice in relation to this issue which will be relevant in the allocations context. There are no plans to review this guidance. However, we will ensure that, when the allocations code of guidance is revised in due course, advice is provided specifically on this issue.

Council Housing: Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much subsidy was paid to the Housing Revenue Account of each local authority in respect of its council housing provision in each year since 1990. [165557]

Mr. Iain Wright: A table showing the value of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy paid to each authority (that is, in deficit rather than HRA subsidy surplus) from 1995-96 to 2005-06 (the last year for which audited data is available) has been placed in the Library. The table shows the value of the 'bricks and mortar' element of HRA subsidy. Prior to 2004, HRA subsidy also contained a rent rebate element. This is omitted from the table to ensure consistency with post 2004-05 data.

Pre 1995-96 data is only available at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to ensure that English wine is served exclusively or at the request of guests at meals, parties and receptions hosted by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [164300]

Mr. Dhanda: All procurement is undertaken in line with the European Commission's procurement rules and to obtain value for money. Where possible, British products are used.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contracts her Department has with external consultants; what the total value, including all VAT and disbursements, of these contracts are for the current financial year; how long each contract lasts; and what the forecast total value is of each contract. [163806]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the Department's financial systems can identify all the contracts awarded for over £20,000 for this financial year. The following table shows the supplier, date of the contract award and the contract value, together with a brief description of the nature of the contract.

Supplier	*Contract value (£)*	*Contract award date*	*Description*
7E COMMUNICATIONS LTD	328,960.00	21 February 2007	Enhanced Command Support Satellite System
ABTECH SAFETY LTD	80,991.12	7 March 2007	Confind Space Rescue Equipment for Urban Search And Research
ACTICA CONSULTING LTD	1,840,000.00	17 October 2007	Security and Resilience Consultancy for Firecontrol
ACTICA CONSULTING LTD	40,300.00	24 July 2007	Impact of the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) Modernisation Programme
AEA TECHNOLOGY ENVIRONMENT	1,093,881.80	1 April 2007	Communities' Building Regs Research and Tech Support
AHL BUSINESS ASSURANCE LT	40,000.00	30 April 2007	Provision of Internal Audit Services
ALPINE RESOURCING LTD	176,800.00	1 August 2007	Commercial Director for Firecontrol Project Team
ALSBRIDGE LTD	41,000.00	11 June 2007	Local Management Accounting Team Review
AMTEC CONSULTING LTD	75,520.00	5 March 2007	Project Manager for Commission For Equalities And Human Rights
APTO	30,000.00	31 August 2007	Planning Portal Adobe Forms Development
ASTRON DOCUMENT SERVICES	120,000.00	1 October 2007	Communities' File Covers
AUTO ELECTRICAL SERVS (MA	1,064,054.44	21 February 2007	Enhanced Command Support Vehicles
BADENOCH AND CLARK	33,670.00	4 October 2007	Build Template Business Cases
BADENOCH AND CLARK	375,000.00	6 August 2007	Lead Advisor on City, Regional and Economic Dev.
BADENOCH AND CLARK	185,000.00	14 May 2007	Human Resource Software (PIMS) Project Manger

Supplier	Contract value (£)	Contract award date	Description
BADENOCH AND CLARK	135,000.00	28 February 2007	Procurement Advice Notice Government Agreement Competitive Dialogue
BIZZIMOGUL	119,850.00	10 August 2007	Information Technology Services for Peoplesoft Information Management System Enhancement Programme
BRAVOSOLUTION UK LTD	120,441.00	1 January 2006	Firecontrol Project E-Sourcing Services
CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS RESEARCH LTD	48,000.00	15 May 2007	Prov of Economic Support to The Strategic Review
CERTES COMPUTING LTD	40,000.00	9 July 2007	Extempsible Mark-Up Language (XML) Schemas Specialist
COMPUTER PEOPLE LTD	26,030.00	1 July 2007	Data Architect
COMPUTER PEOPLE LTD	106,492.00	1 October 2007	Single National Planning Application Project Manager
Concerto Consulting	70,000.00	30 August 2007	Home Improvement Pack—Energy Adviser—David Lane
CORNWELL MANAGEMENT CONSU	2,590,000.00	26 May 2005	Provision of Security and Resilience Consultancy
DONALDSONS	210,000.00	27 February 2004	Firecontrol Project—Property Advisors
DTZ CONSULTING AND RESEARCH	63,500.00	1 December 2006	Consultancy for Evidence on Integration And Cohesion
EADS DEFENCE AND SECURITY SYSTEMS LTD	213,776,669.00	30 March 2007	Technology and Control Centre Infrastructure
ENTEC UK LTD	69,049.00	9 July 2007	Research on Non Domestic Microgeneration
FAITHWISE LTD	75,000.00	1 January 2007	Special Adviser to the Preventing Extremism Unit
FIELD FISHER WATERHOUSE	51,871.44	30 May 2007	Fire and Rescue Guidance Review
FRAIKIN LTD	1,643,433.36	2 April 2007	Fleet Management and Maintenance
GREENSTREET BERMAN LTD	28,195.00	6 August 2007	Local Target Setting for Fire and Rescue Service
GWS Ltd	191,590.80	11 July 2007	Lnfo4local—Graphic Design and Typesetting Service
HEDRA PLC	149,352.50	19 April 2007	Government Office Transformation Programme
HEDRA PLC	217,800.00	22 August 2007	Commercial Register Delivery Manager
Informed Solutions Ltd	118,255.00	6 September 2007	Deprivation Index Mapping Tool
Informed Solutions Ltd	78,741.00	2 October 2007	Data Interchange Hub (IT)
INFOTERRA	48,500.00	1 April 2007	Procurement of Aerial Imagery
INNOGISTIC SOFTWARE PLC	72,000.00	1 April 2006	Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Support and Maintenance
Insight Management and Systems Ltd	75,000.00	16 August 2007	Thames Gateway Programme Systems Executive
INTELLIGENT ADDRESSING LT	20,800.00	26 June 2007	National Land and Property Gazetteer Data
KATE MCALLISTER CONSULTAN	41,710.00	29 May 2007	Supporting People and Disabled Facilities Grant
KPMG	160,493.00	2 May 2007	Home Improvement Pack—Local Authority Charging Options Consultancy
LA INT COMPUTER CONSULTAN	53,328.00	1 October 2007	Test Development to the Fire Control Project
LA INT COMPUTER CONSULTAN	57,600.00	26 July 2007	Commercial Register Senior Requirements Analyst
LA International	80,000.00	30 August 2007	Planning Portal E-Consultation Development Project Manager
LA International	21,109.00	22 October 2007	Planning Portal—E-Consultation Take Up Consultant
LA International	51,000.00	5 November 2007	Data Interchange Hub—Project Manager
MACDONALD HUMFREY (AUTOMATION) LTD	368,760.00	29 June 2007	Mass Decontamination Flow Control System
MET OFFICE	100,000.00	1 October 2006	Met Office—Weather Services
Morgan Hunt	110,000.00	1 August 2007	Thames Gateway Head of Finance
MOTT MACDONALD LTD	221,892.00	14 February 2007	Appointment of a National Project Manager
N 0 P MARKET RESEARCH GRO	59,595.00	1 October 2007	Feasibility Study for Communities Attitudes Survey

Supplier	Contract value (£)	Contract award date	Description
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SOCIA	93,950.00	14 May 2007	Training for the Senior Civil Service Analytical Techniques
NESCOMMS LTD	49,350.00	29 September 2007	Service Level Manager
OGC	84,161.00	2 May 2007	Thames Gateway Project Mgt And Planning Consultant
OPERATIONAL RSEARCH IN HE	30,920.00	2 July 2007	Analysis on the Current P and P For Co-Responding
OUTREACH ORGANISATION LTD	164,000.00	4 June 2007	Line Access and Casualty Management Training
OVE ARUP AND PARTNERS	98,499.00	24 July 2007	Planning for a Sustainable Future
PA Consulting	956,000.00	28 September 2007	Home Improvement Pack Programme Support Agreement
PARITY RESOURCES	68,000.00	17 August 2007	Link Project Manager
Parity Resources	23,400.00	14 June 2007	Supporting People—Project Resource Agreement
Parity Resources	76,500.00	31 July 2007	Thames Gateway Project Manager
Parity Resources	47,144.00	16 August 2007	Thames Gateway Data Analyst
Parity Resources	51,063.00	19 October 2007	Planning Portal E-Consultation Set Baseline 4 Benefits Measuring
PARITY SOLUTIONS LTD	68,000.00	17 August 2007	Communities IT Network (Link) Project Manager
PARITY SOLUTIONS LTD	66,360.00	22 August 2007	Test Development to the Fire Control Project
PKF	100,000.00	24 October 2005	Finance, Accountancy and Taxation Advisory Services
PPAL	44,850.00	27 July 2007	Planning Portal E-Planning Local Authority Web Site Review
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS	63,000.00	12 October 2006	Support Preparation for Sustainable Homessylvia Bu
REED PERSONNEL SERVICES P	82,400.00	5 March 2007	Project Manager for Commission for Equalities and Human Rights
REED PERSONNEL SERVICES P	82,400.00	12 March 2007	Project Manager and Human Resource Projects for Commission for Equalities and Human Rights
REED PERSONNEL SERVICES P	59,200.00	12 March 2007	Workstream Leader for Commission for Equalities and Human Rights
RESPIREX INTERNATIONAL	56,625.36	25 July 2007	Power Respirator Protective Suit—Air Filter Unit
Secor Consulting	21,720.00	10 September 2007	Listed Advice Scheme Support Contract
Securetest	27,700.00	25 October 2007	Securetest—Advice Only
Serco (Prev Cornwell)	25,200.00	4 July 2007	IT Support
Serco Consulting	41,650.00	14 November 2007	Telephony—Expert Input to Telephony Strategy
SERCO LTD	10,460,669.00	3 May 2006	New Dimension Project
SJ PROCUREMENT LTD	30,000.00	23 October 2007	Procurement Capability Review Support
TRIBAL HCH LTD	215,000.00	2 April 2007	Consulting Support to the Commission of Equalities and Human Rights
TURNER AND TOWNSEND (134266	156,600.00	17 April 2007	Firecontrol Project Provision of Regional Control Centre Tenants Rep
VEGA GROUP PLC	252,985.00	16 April 2007	Electronic Collection Of Fire and Research Service Operation Statistics
VENN GROUP	63,180.00	3 September 2007	Provision of a Contract Accountant For Fire Control
WEST OF ENGLAND UNIVERSIT	174,705.00	22 March 2007	Foundation Degree in Development Management
WHITE CONSULTANTS LTD	306,340.00	1 April 2007	Support for Transformation Including New Ways of Working
WHITE YOUNG GREEN	128,843.25	10 July 2007	A Review of Non-Household Minor Developments
WHITEHEAD MANN LTD	100,000.00	6 July 2007	Recruitment of CEO for Homes and Community Agency
WILTSHIRE COLLEGE	127,239.78	20 July 2007	Urban Search and Rescue Chainsaw Course Instruction
ZURICH RISK SERVICES	24,166.80	21 August 2007	New Dimension Lifting of Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) Inspections
—	241,108,104.53	—	—

Homelessness

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the potential effect of the provisions of the London Local Authorities and Transport for London Bill, if enacted, on the distribution of free food to the homeless. [166773]

John Healey *[holding answer 21 November 2007]:* Following consultation on the provisions of their forthcoming London Local Authorities Bill, London councils confirmed on 16 November that London boroughs will not be proposing any provisions related to the distribution of free food. Accordingly, the Government has made no assessment of such a provision.

Housing: Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the basis is for the assumptions for rent receipts allowances and interest rates for future years being used in the six authorities' pilot study for examining the removal of local authorities from the national housing revenue account. [165567]

Mr. Iain Wright: The modelling work used as an assumption that current policies would continue. On this basis, it assumed that rents would increase at RPI + 0.5 per cent. following convergence with formula rents in 2011-12 and that allowances would rise in line with GDP. Interest charges were based on local consolidated rate of interest forecasts. The modelling work however also tested sensitivity to changes in all the variables which have an impact on a business plan, including debt levels, interest and inflation rates, expenditure levels, rental and other income, and sales. The 30-year model business plans run well beyond medium term forecasts and policy commitments so it is important to consider a wide range of scenarios.

Local Government: Standards

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what data will be used to measure each national indicator; and what the source of each dataset will be, broken down by indicator. [165040]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 372W.

Ministerial Duties

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the formal responsibilities are of the Ministers for *(a)* the north east, *(b)* the north west, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(d)* London, *(e)* the south east, *(f)* the south west, *(g)* the East Midlands, *(h)* the West Midlands and *(i)* the east of England. [165382]

Hazel Blears: All regional Ministers have the same formal responsibilities. These responsibilities are set out in "The Governance of Britain" (Cm. 7170 published on 3 July 2007).

Regeneration

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department has had on the development of successor arrangements for the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund with *(a)* Birmingham city council, *(b)* Birmingham strategic partnership and *(c)* and local authorities; and if she will make a statement. [166198]

John Healey: We confirmed at the time of the CSR announcement, that we intend to respond to the recommendations of the Sub-National Review and concentrate greater regeneration effort on tackling worklessness through the establishment of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund.

The new Indices of Deprivation 2007, due to be released shortly, will provide more up-to-date data on the pattern of deprivation on which to base our decisions. Further details will be available at the time of the Local Government Finance Settlement in December.

Rent: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what amount of rent benefits was paid in each local authority in Hampshire in each year since 2000-01; what estimate she has made of the number of eligible people not claiming such benefits in each local authority; and if she will make a statement. [162419]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply

Estimates of eligible people not claiming housing benefit are not available below Great Britain level.

Estimates for Great Britain are published in the "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up" series. The latest date for which figures are available relate to 2005-06. Copies are available in the Library.

Information regarding the total amount of housing benefit paid in each local authority in Hampshire since 2000-01 is in the following table.

Total housing benefit paid in each local authority in Hampshire since 2000-01

£ million

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Basingstoke	18.8	19.5	23.1	22.2	23.8	25.8	28.1
East Hampshire	11.5	11.9	12.6	12.7	13.7	14.6	15.3
Eastleigh	13.4	13.7	14.4	14.6	15.8	17.0	19.6
Fareham	7.9	8.1	9.3	8.6	9.1	10.0	10.8
Gosport	11.9	12.1	12.9	12.9	13.8	15.1	16.1
Hart	5.3	5.5	6.2	6.4	6.7	7.5	8.3

Total housing benefit paid in each local authority in Hampshire since 2000-01

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	£ million 2006-07
Havant	13.7	14.3	15.5	14.9	16.2	18.0	19.5
New Forest	20.5	21.4	23.3	22.8	24.5	25.9	27.3
Rushmoor	11.3	11.5	12.5	13.2	14.6	16.4	17.7
Test Valley	10.7	11.9	13.6	12.6	14.1	15.2	16.7
Winchester	12.2	12.7	14.6	13.4	14.0	15.1	16.3
Portsmouth	51	50.9	56	54.1	58.1	62.4	68.8
Southampton	50.4	51.3	54.5	55.5	56.6	60.4	65.1

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £100,000.
2. Figures prior to 2006-07 are audited, but may change in future if local authorities audited accounts are amended after a decision or appeal. Figures for recent years are more likely to be amended than older data.
3. 2006-07 figures are initial final (pre-audited) and are subject to change.
4. Figures relate to what local authorities spend on claimants and include discretionary expenditure (mainly disregards of war pensions), and overpayments except where benefit has been granted in advance (where the benefit is paid in the form of a rebate).
5. From 1999-2000 onwards, housing and council tax benefit expenditure on asylum seekers was funded by the National Asylum Support Service, and is therefore excluded from the figures presented in GB level DWP benefit expenditure tables. However, local authority level information includes all expenditure on these benefits relating to asylum seekers, as it is not possible to isolate at this level that part which applies to asylum seekers.
6. Years up to 2005-06 are available at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/HBandCTB_expenditure.asp

Source:
Information sourced from local authority claims for housing revenue account subsidy and housing benefit and council tax benefit subsidy.

Small Businesses: Non-Domestic Rates

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to increase the uptake of the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme among small businesses. [166601]

John Healey: Changes introduced in 2006 by Communities and Local Government to the Small Business Rate Relief scheme removed the previous requirement to make an application for relief every year, making it easier for eligible ratepayers to apply for and benefit from relief. The 2007 pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review announced the Government's intention to bring forward proposals to simplify the current set of business rate reliefs, of which small business rate relief is one, to provide greater clarity for ratepayers and certainty for those who administer the business rate system.

Social Rented Housing: Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many antisocial behaviour order injunctions were instigated by registered social landlords in the Peterborough city council area in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and if she will make a statement. [167039]

Mr. Iain Wright: Collection of information on the use of antisocial behaviour injunctions by RSLs is performed by the Housing Corporation via its annual regulatory and statistical returns.

The information is provided by individual RSLs on a national basis (i.e. the number of injunctions they have instigated across all their operations). It is therefore not possible to aggregate data for a particular locality (in which a number of different RSLs own or manage housing stock).

Overall data for 2005-06 shows an increase in the use of antisocial behaviour injunctions (ASBIs) by RSLs (758). They are proving a popular and effective tool to combat antisocial behaviour (by comparison, RSLs reported the use of 318 ASBOs over the same period).

Martin Cave's review identifies aggregation of performance data against local authority areas as one the new housing regulator (OFTENANT) should take up.

Social Sector Working Party

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to reinstate the meeting of the Social Sector Working Party. [165952]

John Healey: The chief executive of LEASE chairs the Social Sector Working Party. He postponed the planned meeting of 11 September because a number of the members could not attend. Subsequently the chief executive has retired and a new chief executive, Anthony Essien, took up post on 15 October 2007. Working Party members have been notified that there will be a short delay in arranging the next meeting. We would expect the next meeting to take place early in the new year.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many troops were contributed by each of the nations participating in International Security Assistance Force operations in Afghanistan in the last period for which figure are available. [167272]

Des Browne: The current ISAF strength is approximately 42,000 personnel from 38 countries. The UK is the second largest contributor with approximately 7,800 personnel. Details of individual national contributions are available on the ISAF website, www.nato.int/isaf/index.html.

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Department for Work and Pensions on the receipt of *(a)* war disablement pensions and *(b)* Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payments in the calculations of child support payments. [166312]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* There have not been any discussions held regarding this matter.

Armed Forces: Desertion

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces reported absent without leave between January 2004 and October 2007 were *(a)* male and *(b)* female. [165798]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The breakdown of male and female personnel reported absent without leave between January 2004 and October 2007 for the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the Army is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The number of Royal Navy personnel broken down into male and female who have been reported absent without leave between January 2004 and October 2007 is shown in the following table:

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
2004	174	10	184
2005	180	16	196
2006	148	9	157
2007 to 31 October	108	7	115
Total	610	42	652

Armed Forces: Discharges

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military personnel left *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force because of (i) premature voluntary release, (ii) redundancy, (iii) retirement and (iv) other reasons in each year since 1997; and what percentage of each category were (A) single, (B) married without children, (C) married with children, (D) divorced without children and (E) divorced with children. [165793]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows outflow data from the UK Regular Armed Forces for each service by exit reason and marital status in each financial year from 1997-98.

Outflow figures broken down by marital status are not available for Army and RAF officers.

Figures relating to dependent children are only available for Army Other Ranks.

Due to the way marital status was recorded in personnel databases, Naval Service figures for married personnel do not include those married personnel not in receipt of a married person's allowance, while single and divorced personnel cannot be shown separately.

Information relating to marital status is not held centrally for RAF after 1 March 2006, Naval Service after 1 October 2006, and for Army after 1 March 2007, following the phased implementation of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system.

The term Premature Voluntary Release (PVR) is now known as Voluntary Outflow (VO) although the methodology remains the same. Time Expiry includes all personnel completing their contracted period of service. Other wastage includes outflow due to medical reasons, for misconduct, dismissals and death, among others.

Outflow from UK Regular Forces by Service and Marital Status

Number and percentage

		1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Naval Service[1]		5,270	5,530	5,800	5,030	5,800	5,290	4,770	4,630	4,490	[2]4,310
Officer		620	540	570	480	530	510	470	510	520	[2]500
Trained		500	450	500	410	450	390	380	420	430	[2]400
	Voluntary Outflow	170	160	240	170	230	170	160	170	190	[2]210
	Married (%)	75	81	76	77	80	70	70	71	74	n/a
	Time Expiry	290	260	220	200	180	180	190	190	190	[2]160
	Married (%)	79	81	79	84	81	88	84	82	85	n/a
	Redundancy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	[2]—
	Married (%)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a
	Other wastage	40	30	50	40	40	50	30	60	50	[2]40
	Married (%)	53	61	65	70	73	61	48	65	70	n/a
Untrained		120	80	70	80	80	120	90	90	90	[2]100
Ranks		4,650	4,990	5,230	4,550	5,270	4,780	4,300	4,130	3,960	[2]3,810
Trained		3,560	3,600	3,610	3,120	3,580	3,160	3,060	3,170	2,870	[2]2,790

Outflow from UK Regular Forces by Service and Marital Status

Number and percentage

		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
	Voluntary Outflow	1,750	1,710	1,680	1,330	1,970	1,590	1,620	1,860	1,700	[2]1,750
	Married (%)	37	40	43	43	38	34	32	33	33	n/a
	Time Expiry	1,190	1,170	1,110	1,000	880	880	740	580	420	[2]420
	Married (%)	80	81	78	78	74	77	74	75	76	n/a
	Redundancy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Married (%)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Other wastage	620	730	820	790	730	690	630	730	750	[2]620
	Married (%)	42	38	36	31	33	29	24	28	24	n/a
Untrained		1,080	1,390	1,610	1,430	1,680	1,620	1,250	960	1,100	[2]1,020
Army		14,470	17,050	16,200	15,230	14,380	14,560	14,600	15,070	14,190	[2]15,780
Officer		1,040	1,310	1,120	1,150	1,090	980	950	1,100	1,070	[2]1,330
Trained		960	1,050	890	900	900	800	780	900	980	[2]1,110
	Voluntary Outflow	460	510	440	530	540	440	500	530	590	n/a
	Time Expiry	450	470	370	320	320	300	240	320	340	n/a
	Redundancy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a
	Other wastage	40	60	80	50	40	50	40	50	50	n/a
	Untrained	80	260	220	260	190	180	170	200	90	[2]220
Ranks		13,430	15,740	15,090	14,080	13,290	13,580	13,640	13,970	13,120	[2]14,440
Trained		9,250	9,710	9,110	9,180	9,090	8,870	8,790	9,840	9,520	[2]9,820
	Voluntary Outflow	5,740	5,950	5,310	5,310	4,980	4,610	4,500	4,880	4,620	n/a
	Single (%)	51	50	54	55	59	60	61	61	62	n/a
	Married without children	20	20	19	18	18	16	15	15	14	n/a
	Married with children (%)	25	26	23	23	20	21	20	21	20	n/a
	Divorced without children (%)	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	n/a
	Divorced with children (%)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	n/a
	Time Expiry	1,560	1,720	1,770	1,730	1,690	1,810	1,570	1,840	2,290	n/a
	Single (%)	11	13	8	8	6	6	5	6	6	n/a
	Married without children (%)	9	10	9	9	8	8	10	10	9	n/a
	Married with children (%)	74	69	75	73	78	77	74	75	74	n/a
	Divorced without children (%)	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	n/a
	Divorced with children (%)	4	5	5	7	7	7	8	7	8	n/a
	Redundancy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a
	Married without children	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a
	Divorced with children	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a
	Other wastage	1,940	2,050	2,030	2,130	2,410	2,460	2,720	3,110	2,610	n/a
	Single (%)	61	66	68	74	78	76	81	81	79	n/a

Outflow from UK Regular Forces by Service and Marital Status

Number and percentage

		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
	Married without children (%)	13	11	11	9	7	9	7	7	8	n/a
	Married with children (%)	24	21	19	15	13	14	11	10	12	n/a
	Divorced without children (%)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	n/a
	Divorced with children (%)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	n/a
Untrained		4,180	6,030	5,980	4,900	4,200	4,700	4,850	4,130	3,600	[2]4,620
RAF		4,610	4,890	4,620	4,680	4,530	4,250	4,040	3,730	4,590	5,070
Officer		620	660	600	660	670	580	620	700	700	850
Trained		580	610	560	610	620	530	580	640	670	800
	Voluntary Outflow	220	240	210	240	280	200	200	240	230	260
	Time Expiry	340	330	310	340	310	310	330	360	350	370
	Redundancy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	110
	Other wastage	30	30	40	30	30	20	40	40	50	60
Untrained		40	50	40	40	50	50	40	60	30	50
Ranks		3,990	4,230	4,020	4,020	3,860	3,670	3,410	3,020	3,890	4,220
	Trained	3,540	3,590	3,380	3,380	3,290	3,090	2,880	2,630	3,670	3,930
	Voluntary Outflow	1,560	1,740	1,760	1,690	1,740	1,530	1,440	1,490	1,840	1,640
	Single	35	31	27	33	34	30	36	38	46	n/a
	Married	61	64	68	62	62	65	59	57	50	n/a
	Divorced	4	4	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	n/a
	Time Expiry	1,630	1,590	1,320	1,400	1,290	1,180	820	640	870	890
	Single (%)	24	23	27	19	18	15	15	13	16	n/a
	Married (%)	71	71	74	74	75	78	79	78	75	n/a
	Divorced (%)	5	6	6	8	7	7	6	9	9	n/a
	Redundancy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	490	1,060
	Single (%)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	n/a
	Married (%)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	88	n/a
	Divorced (%)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	n/a
	Other wastage	350	260	300	300	260	380	620	490	470	360
	Single (%)	30	34	40	41	41	72	62	65	59	n/a
	Married (%)	66	60	57	53	55	25	33	33	38	n/a
	Divorced (%)	5	6	4	6	3	3	5	2	2	n/a
Untrained		450	640	640	640	570	580	530	400	220	280

n/a = Unavailable
— = zero or rounded to zero.
[1] Naval Service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines.
[2] Provisional.
Notes:
1. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
2. Percentages are calculated from unrounded data.
3. Due to ongoing validation of data from the new Joint Personnel Administration system, Naval Service statistics for 1 October 2006 onwards and Army statistics for 1 March 2007 onwards are provisional and subject to review.

Armed Forces: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many serving military personnel live in *(a)* Enfield and *(b)* Enfield North constituency. [165124]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Fundraising

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was raised by Defence Estates in each year since its creation from the proceeds of charges levied on services' fundraising organisers for the use of estate facilities. [167059]

Derek Twigg: Records of the charges levied are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was raised by his Department from the proceeds of charges levied on services' fundraising organisers for the use of estate facilities in each of the five years prior to the creation of Defence Estates. [167060]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* has been and *(b)* will be released to the Treasury under arrangement with Annington Homes for the return to Annington Homes of void married quarters in each year for which figures are available. [165867]

Derek Twigg: Under the terms of the Profit Share Agreement with Annington Homes Ltd., the Treasury has received some £150 million to date. The calculation of the profit share is dependent on the number of properties released, and the proceeds made on their disposal. It is not possible to predict a figure for future receipts.

The breakdown of amounts received by calendar year is as follows:

	£ million
1997	2.3
1998	2.5
1999	6.8
2000	7.9
2001	15.6
2002	21.0
2003	34.8
2004	15.9
2005	19.2
2006	14.3
2007	9.5

It should be noted that the profit share follows disposal of the properties and not their return to Annington Homes Ltd.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he expects married quarters to reach the Decent Homes Standard applicable to social housing by 2010. [165869]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1631W, to the hon. Members for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) and Colchester (Bob Russell).

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many and what percentage of military vehicles have been cannibalised in each year since 2003, broken down by type; [165999]

(2) how many components from each type of military vehicle have been cannibalised in each year since 2003. [166000]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Cannibalisation of land vehicles is rare and cannibalisation rates are not significant indicators of performance against target availability levels. Vehicle availability on operations continues to be high.

AWE Burghfield

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the rebuilding of the facility at Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield on the decommissioning of Trident warheads. [165026]

Des Browne: None.

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Defence Industrial Strategy II will be published. [164658]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We are currently reviewing the timetable for the publication of the Defence Industrial Strategy and will inform the House in due course.

Departmental Expenditure

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's hospitality and entertainment budget is for 2007-08. [162642]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The departmental budget for hospitality and entertainment in 2007-08 is £6.228 million.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department and its agencies spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167308]

Derek Twigg: Currently seven full-time equivalent members of staff are employed in marketing and brand management in the Ministry of Defence Directorate of Public Relations. The staff work on both branding and marketing. Between 1 November 2006 and 31 October 2007, the amount spent on these staff, based on capitation rates, is £470,477. Of this figure £313,061 was spent on military staff and £157,416 was spent on civilian staff.

Defence agencies, top level budgets areas, trading funds, joint headquarters, single service commands and some military units employ brand managers and marketing specialists, or have individuals who carry out marketing tasks in addition to their main role. Information on this is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many departmental mobile telephones were lost in each year since 1997; and what the replacement costs were for each year. [164783]

Derek Twigg: Information on the number of lost mobile phones is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in his Department and its agencies. [165236]

Derek Twigg: Currently seven full-time equivalent members of staff are employed in marketing and brand management in the Ministry of Defence Directorate of Public Relations. Defence Agencies, Top Level Budgets areas, Trading Funds, Joint Headquarters, single Service Commands and some military units employ brand managers and marketing specialists, or have individuals who carry out marketing tasks in addition to their main role. Accurate information is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Visits

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his official engagements were between 8 and 31 October 2007. [162639]

Des Browne: Between the 8 October and 29 October, I had various meetings in London and Scotland, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the MOD and Scotland Office. On 11 October I met with Bob Gates, US Defence Secretary during his visit to London. On 12 October I attended the armed forces memorial dedication ceremony in Staffordshire. On 16 October I participated in Scotland Office questions and answered the Defence Policy debate in the House of Commons. On 17 October I met the Albanian Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr. Sali Berisha, before hosting the launch of The Earl Haig Fund's Poppy Scotland campaign. On the 18 October I debated the future of the UK's nuclear deterrent in Crawley. On 19 October I visited new service accommodation at Aliwal Barracks in Tidworth and visited 12 Mechanised Brigade at Bulford. On 20 October I visited HMS Victory in Portsmouth to attend a dinner to commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar. On 22 October I participated in defence questions in the House of Commons. On 23 October I gave oral evidence to the House of Commons Defence Committee and made an oral statement to the House on the Gould Report before meeting President Karzai of Afghanistan. On 24 and 25 October I was in the Netherlands attending a NATO Defence Ministers meeting. From 29 October to 2 November I was overseas visiting service personnel serving in Iraq.

Iraq: Detainees

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the circumstances in which international human rights law may not apply to Iraqis detained by UK personnel in Iraq. [167365]

Des Browne: The fundamental principles of human rights are enshrined in a range of international treaties, including the Geneva Conventions, which are themselves reflected in UK law. The rule of law is paramount in everything the UK armed forces do and UK forces are subject to English criminal law at all times, wherever in the world they are serving.

Iraq and Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost has been of the detachment of modified Nimrod aircraft tasked to carry out duties over Iraq and Afghanistan in each of the last four financial years and what the equivalent cost was in 2007-08 to date; and what the overseas deployment component of that cost was in each case. [165052]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what exclusive agreements have been made with individual media organisations to report on operations in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; and what effect those agreements have on times of placing of information in the public domain. [166510]

Des Browne: We have made no exclusive agreements with media organisations to report on operations in either theatre.

Since April 2007, we have facilitated 52 media assignments to Iraq and 78 assignments to Afghanistan, involving a wide range of media organisations.

Ministers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his ministerial salary is paid to him entirely in respect of his duties as Secretary of State for Defence. [165173]

Des Browne *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* Ministerial salaries are paid in accordance with the Ministerial and Other Salaries Act 1975. Details of ministerial salaries are available at:

http://www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/m06.pdf

and in the Library of the House.

Nuclear Weapons: Treaties

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to support the establishment of a nuclear weapons convention; and if he will make a statement. [164135]

Des Browne: The UK considers the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) to be the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and the framework for nuclear disarmament.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British troops are working in peacekeeping operations in Sudan, with *(a)* the UN, *(b)* NATO and *(c)* the EU. [167182]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are two main mission areas for peacekeeping operations in Sudan: the south, which is covered by the United Nations mission in Sudan (UNMIS), and the Darfur region. This area is currently covered by an African Union mission (AMIS) which is in the process of transforming into an African Union/United Nations hybrid mission (UNAMID).

The UK has two officers in the UNMIS mission, one officer in the UNAMID mission, with a Brigadier shortly deploying as Chief of Staff. Two British staff officers are providing support to the AMIS mission on behalf of the European Union.

Trident: RAF Corsham

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what activities take place at the Corsham Computer Centre in support of the Trident nuclear weapons system; and if he will make a statement. [166999]

Des Browne: The Corsham Computer Centre is a data processing facility in support of Royal Navy operations. I am withholding specific details of its function as they would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what contribution *(a)* London council tax revenue and *(b)* Lottery funding will make to Olympics cost overruns. [165436]

Tessa Jowell: Following a thorough review of costs, I announced a revised £9.325 billion funding package for the Games on 15 March 2007. The Government are confident that the Games will be delivered within this package, which includes a prudent contingency of £2.747 billion.

The council tax contribution to the £9.325 billion funding package remains at £625 million, as agreed in 2003. The Mayor of London will also make £300 million available over the lifetime of the Olympic programme; and has made clear that this will not be found from either an increase in council tax or transport fares.

The Lottery contribution to the overall £9.325 billion funding package is £2.175 billion, this includes: £750 million from the Olympic Lottery games, £340 million from the Sports Lottery distributors and £410 million from the National Lottery from 2009, all of which was included in the original Lottery funding package. A further £675 million is now being sought from the National Lottery from 2009. This sum, together with the £410 million, is subject to parliamentary approval.

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether the Mayor of London's pledge to provide £10 million a year as a funder of last resort for Olympics legacy management is *(a)* a legally binding commitment and *(b)* sufficient to underwrite the legacy. [165487]

Tessa Jowell: The Mayor of London's commitment to provide £10 million per annum of underwriting towards Olympic venues in legacy formed part of London's bid to host the Games. All venues are being designed with a viable legacy use in mind.

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what consideration is being given to using revenues from business rates to fund the Olympic legacy. [165488]

Tessa Jowell: The Government announced a funding package for the Games on 15 March 2007. This does not include plans to use a business rate.

Olympic Games 2012: Mayor of London

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether the Revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and the Mayor of London replaces the original memorandum. [165484]

Tessa Jowell: The revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government and the Mayor, that was published in June 2007, replaces the original 2003 MOU. This is stated in paragraph five of the June 2007 MOU.

Olympic Games 2012: Training

Ms Abbott: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she has taken to promote training and development opportunities in boroughs where the London Olympics is likely to create jobs; and if she will make a statement. [164418]

Tessa Jowell: An increase in skills and employment in the five Olympic boroughs is a vital part of the Game's legacy.

The Local Employment and Training Framework (LETF), for the five host boroughs, has committed £1.8 million this year to training, including construction, providing over 1,500 training places. The LETF also includes a local labour and business scheme, and through a second phase, education projects and skills development in wider sectors. The 2012 Local Employment and

Skills Taskforce Action Plan, is helping train Londoners across many sectors including construction and hospitality.

The Personal Best Programme (the renamed Pre Volunteer Programme) will encourage workless and socially excluded people to gain new skills and increase job prospects through volunteering, benefiting 20,000 Londoners. Over 370 people have already gone through the pilot programme and 15 per cent. have already secured employment opportunities. Hackney is one of the pilot boroughs.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) recently announced an additional £5 million funding for London this year, expanding training in key areas for 2012: sport, customer service, media and construction. This will focus on work-based learning and apprenticeships, and ensuring thousands of Londoners have practical skills for work.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Africa: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of whether the condition set out in UN Resolution 1769 that the UN-AU hybrid peacekeeping force will be predominantly African will be met. [165954]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) is generating the African Union (AU)/UN hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) force, in consultation with the AU, and has received pledges from a number of African countries. The DPKO is now conducting pre-deployment assessments. Until these assessments are completed, the DPKO cannot confirm UNAMID's composition. We continue to press the DPKO, the AU and the Government of Sudan for the prompt deployment of an effective UNAMID force.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress in promoting democracy in Burma. [165414]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* Following the Burmese regime's brutal crackdown on peaceful demonstrators in September, the international community has made clear that there can be no return to the previous situation. The UN, EU and Association of South East Asian Nations have been pushing for fundamental political and economic transformation, leading to national reconciliation, respect for human rights and the establishment of accountable civilian government in Burma.

The UN has led international efforts to bring about substantive political change. The UN Secretary-General's envoy to Burma, Professor Ibrahim Gambari, visited the country in October and November, and reported to the Security Council after each visit. The Government of Burma has so far taken only limited steps to address the international community's key concerns. They have releases only a limited number of political prisoners and have not lifted the restrictions on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to allow her to participate fully in the process of national reconciliation. However, we welcome her constructive and forward-looking statement calling on the regime to enter into a 'meaningful and time bound dialogue'.

We will continue to work with our partners in the UN, the EU and across the region to press the Government of Burma to establish a genuine dialogue between the regime, opposition parties and ethnic groups as a first step towards the re-establishment of democracy, stability and freedom in Burma.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [166026]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed events in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) at a meeting with the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid on 20 September, and at a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the permanent members of the UN Security Council on 28 September, as well as with President Kagame of Rwanda on 3 October. The DRC was also considered at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council in July and October.

During the UN General Assembly's Ministers' Week, my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, met President Kabila and representatives of the P3+2 group on 26 September. He discussed the DRC at meetings with President Kagame on 3 October and the Belgian Foreign Minister on 14 November as well as with the Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Winchester on 9 October and the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Great Lakes Region of Africa on 6 November.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials attended meetings of the International Contact Group on the Great Lakes in Brussels on 21 September and in Washington on 16 November.

Departmental Pay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people in his Department were paid over £100,000 in each year since 1997. [167192]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office publishes a breakdown of the salaries of senior staff in its annual departmental report. In 2007, 0.69 per cent. of the Department's UK-based staff earned salaries of more than £100,000. The numbers of staff who have earned salaries of more than £100,000 each year since 1997 are:

	Number
1997	6
1998	6
1999	8

	Number
2000	10
2001	11
2002	16
2003	14
2004	18
2005	28
2006	35
2007	42

Entry Clearances: Applications

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of applications for visas for relatives and dependants made by applicants were *(a)* not granted and *(b)* granted within (i) 13 weeks, (ii) six months, (iii) a year, (iv) 18 months, (v) two years, (vi) two and a half years, (vii) three years and (viii) longer in each year since 2001. [164675]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* It is not possible to provide the extremely detailed breakdown that the hon. Member requests. I am however able to provide a breakdown of the total numbers of applications received and refused, with percentages and by category for the years 2001 to 2007. As this information is lengthy I will arrange for copies to be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of applications for visit visas made by applicants were *(a)* not granted and *(b)* granted within (i) 13 weeks, (ii) six months, (iii) a year, (iv) 18 months, (v) two years, (vi) two and a half years, (vii) three years and (viii) longer in each year since 2001. [164679]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* It is not possible to provide the extremely detailed breakdown that the hon. Member requests. I am however able to provide a breakdown of the total numbers of applications received and refused, with percentages, and by category for the years 2001 to 2007. As this information is lengthy I will arrange for copies to be placed in the Library of the House.

Entry Clearances: Married People

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of applications for visas for spouses made by applicants were *(a)* not granted and *(b)* granted within (i) 13 weeks, (ii) six months, (iii) a year, (iv) 18 months, (v) two years, (vi) two and a half years, (vii) three years and (viii) longer in each year since 2001. [164585]

Dr. Howells: It is not possible to provide the extremely detailed breakdown that the hon. Member requests. I am however able to provide a breakdown of the total numbers of applications received and refused, with percentages, for the years 2001 to 2007.

	Total received	Total refused	Percentage refused	Total issued	Percentage issued
2001	94	1	1.1	11	11.7
2002	23,641	1,551	6.6	16,767	70.9
2003	41,560	3,286	7.9	29,775	71.6
2004	47,637	5,410	11.4	37,710	79.2
2005	49,851	5,948	11.9	34,075	68.4
2006	52,842	7,804	14.8	44,145	83.5
2007 (January October)	42,620	9,952	23.4	30,053	70.5

	Issued within							
	13 weeks	13 week percentage	6 months	6 month percentage	12 months	12 month percentage	18 months	18 month percentage
2001	11	11.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
2002	15,286	64.7	928	3.9	73	0.3	1	0.0
2003	23,778	57.2	4,622	11.1	370	0.9	0	0.0
2004	27,820	58.4	4,853	10.2	2,024	4.2	764	1.6
2005	30,486	61.2	1,779	3.6	471	0.9	0	0.0
2006	36,777	69.6	2,043	3.9	2,032	3.8	1,056	2.0
2007 (January-October)	28,720	67.4	745	1.7	196	0.5	0	0.0

	24 months	24 month percentage	30 months	30 months percentage	36 months	36 months percentage	Greater than 36 months	> 36 month percentage
2001	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
2002	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
2003	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
2004	157	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
2005	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
2006	147	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

	24 months	24 month percentage	30 months	30 months percentage	36 months	36 months percentage	Greater than 36 months	> 36 month percentage
2007 (January-October)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Source:
Central Reference System 14 November 2007
UKvisas makes every effort to ensure that statistics produced from our 'Central Reference System' (CRS) are accurate. However, the complexity of our global business, including technical failures or occasional inconsistencies in data entry across any of over 150 offices, means we cannot 100 per cent. guarantee accuracy. Please note that these figures have not been published and should only be used internally, for information purposes.
There are issues with data reliability prior to 2004. System modifications on both Proviso and CRS have affected the reliability of the data available to users worldwide between 2001and 2003.

Eritrea: Ethiopia

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation along the Eritrea-Ethiopia border. [165362]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Tension on the border is rising with more forces being deployed by both sides. We are monitoring the situation closely and urging maximum restraint by both sides and a de-escalation of their military build-up.

Eritrea continues to impose restrictions on the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, in contravention of UN Security Council Resolution 1767, adopted unanimously on 31 July 2007. The Government continue to call on Eritrea to withdraw its troops from the temporary security zone.

We are also urging both sides to agree a way forward which will allow demarcation of the border to proceed to the normalisation of their relations.

Ethiopia: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the size of the UN mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea. [165499]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government fully support the continuing operations of the UN peacekeeping mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE). The UK welcomed the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1767 on 31 July 2007. Resolution 1767 set the size of UNMEE at 1,700 military personnel and set out a provision for altering the size of UNMEE if progress is made towards demarcation.

In line with Resolution 1767, the UK calls on Eritrea to withdraw immediately its troops from the temporary security zone and to reverse, without delay or pre-conditions, all restrictions on UNMEE.

The Government reiterate the importance for both Ethiopia and Eritrea to provide UNMEE with the necessary access, assistance, support and protection required for the implementation of its mandate as stated in Resolution 1767.

Iraq: Oil

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role the UK *(a)* has had and *(b)* has in determining the details of production sharing agreements under Iraqi oil law. [167386]

Dr. Howells: We have made no recommendations to the Government of Iraq on the types of contract to include in their draft hydrocarbons legislation, currently being discussed in the Iraqi Council of Representatives. We continue to urge Iraqi ministers and officials to consider the benefits of a broad range of contract types.

Palestinians: Human Rights

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation of the Palestinians in *(a)* Gaza, *(b)* the West Bank and *(c)* refugee camps in neighbouring countries. [166002]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* We are extremely concerned by the humanitarian situation in Gaza. As of 19 November, only two crossings into Gaza were operating: Kerem Shalom: for humanitarian aid and commercial supplies; and Erez: for personnel movement (workers and traders) to and from Israel and the West Bank.

We are doing all we can to help improve the situation. On 14 November, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced to the House a commitment of up to US$500 million to Palestinian development, conditional on progress towards peace; creating the necessary conditions for economic development; and easing security restrictions on movement and access. During this financial year (2007-08), the UK has provided £31 million bilaterally to the Palestinians: £15 million through United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA); £1 million to the Red Cross' work in the West Bank and Gaza; and £15 million through the Temporary International Mechanism. The UK has also pledged £100 million over five years to UNRWA to help Palestinian refugees.

The ability of Palestinians to move within the West Bank has deteriorated. In October 2007, the UN Office for the Co-ordination for Humanitarian Affairs reported a total of 561 closures in the West Bank. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the humanitarian situation in Gaza and movement and access in the West Bank during his visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on 17 and 18 November. I also refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement on the Middle East issued by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 127-8WS).

Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon continue to live in unacceptably poor conditions. There is a particularly pressing problem in the North of Lebanon where

fighting between the Lebanese army and Fatah Al Islam has destroyed the Nahr El Bared refugee camp. Our ambassador in Beirut has raised this issue with the Government of Lebanon at the highest level. We have pressed them on the need to improve living conditions including by granting them access to government services and the right to work and own property. We are currently looking at measures that the UK can take to support this work. In particular we are exploring ways to support the reconstruction of Nahr Bared, in the first instance through support to a World Bank Assessment mission.

Conditions for Palestinian refugees in Syria are considerably better than for those in Lebanon. However, most refugees continue to have a low standard of living. Many of the water and sewerage systems in refugee camps are in need of upgrading, while some camps still lack networks altogether. Poor sanitation in the camps poses health risks for the refugees. In most of the refugee camps shelters remain very basic and many require structural rehabilitation. Palestinian refugees in Syria have access to government services and whil the Syrian government has taken on the responsibility for providing basic utilities in the camps, UNRWA continues to provide basic environmental health services.

Under long-standing arrangements with the Government of Jordan, UNRWA provides services to Jordan's registered Palestinian refugees. 1.8 million registered Palestinian refugees in Jordan are eligible for UNRWA services. Facilities provided for refugees are concentrated in the 10 official UNRWA camps (there are three other camps which do not come under UNRWA). These services include clinics, schools, vocational training and microfinancing projects; these complement services provided by the Jordanian government. The most disadvantaged refugees are eligible for UNRWA's "special hardship" programme. We continue to engage with UNRWA on prioritising its work with Palestinian refugees.

Philippines: Terrorism

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ensure that all necessary counter-terrorism support and assistance is given to the Government of the Philippines in tackling terrorism. [166855]

Dr. Howells: We will continue to work closely with the Government of the Philippines as we do with a number of other countries which face a threat from international terrorism. I discussed with my counterparts in the Government of the Philippines co-operation in countering terrorism during my visit to Manila in April.

Somalia: Arms Control

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the UN arms embargo on Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [165364]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government fully support the UN arms embargo. The UK-sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 1766, adopted unanimously on 23 July 2007, extended the mandate of the Arms Embargo Monitoring Group for a further six months. The Monitoring Group reports to the Security Council on violations of the arms embargo.

Somalia unfortunately has a proliferation of illegal arms, many imported in violation of the embargo. The lack of a functioning government means that arms markets are unregulated. The situation is further exacerbated by the presence of clan militias and insurgents operating in the country. The Government institutions in Somalia do not currently have the capacity to hinder the illegal arms trade. The UK is working with the UN, and wider international community, to encourage the development of Government institutions in Somalia that will enable the authorities to develop its capacity in this area.

Somalia: International Assistance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is Government policy to support the initiative announced by the President of France on 25 September to send warships to protect humanitarian supplies arriving by sea to Somalia. [165989]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government supports France in their use of warships to protect humanitarian supply ships sailing to Somalia from incidents of piracy.

The UN Security Council unanimously passed resolution 1772 on 20 August 2007, calling for military protection of merchant shipping from such acts, in line with relevant international law.

Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likelihood of the full deployment of the African Union (AU) mission in Somalia taking place; and what steps the Government are taking with its international partners to strengthen its capabilities. [165987]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The African Union (AU) mission in Somalia has a mandate for 8,000 troops. Currently, the mission has approximately 1,600 Ugandan troops. Burundi, Ghana and Nigeria have pledged to contribute troops but have not yet deployed. If all troops that have currently been pledged are deployed to Somalia, the mission will not reach full strength.

The Government have contributed funds to the AU planning cell for staff and equipment, funded equipment for the Ugandan deployment and paid for a Burundian reconnaissance visit. We successfully secured a €15million contribution from the EU for the mission and are encouraging the EU and other member states to make further contributions.

Somalia: United Nations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is Government policy to support further UN engagement in Somalia. [165986]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We believe that the current African Union mission should be succeeded by an effective UN mission in Somalia, provided that the conditions on the ground are right.

UN Security Council Resolution 1772 requests that planning for a UN mission take place and that the international community work to identify actions to create the conditions that would enable deployment to take place.

Tony Blair

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution each member of the Quartet on the Middle East has made to the office costs of hon. Tony Blair in his capacity as the Quartet's envoy in the latest period for which figures are available. [165940]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 22 November 2007]:* The UK has provided £400,000 to a UN development programme trust fund which provides support to Mr. Blair's office in Jerusalem. The UK has also seconded four staff to his team. Other international donors are also supporting his work. Mr. Blair has been appointed by, and reports to, the Quartet (US, EU, UN and Russia). We do not have figures available for each member of the Quartet's contribution to the work of the right hon. Tony Blair as Quartet representative.

Travel Restrictions

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to ensure that UK courts have powers to vary or remove restrictions on a person within the UK imposed as a result of that person being placed on a UN Security Council blacklist. [166293]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council acting under chapter VII of the UN charter are binding on all UN member states. It is not open to member states, unilaterally, to vary or remove restrictions imposed on individuals by such mandatory Security Council measures.

Uganda: Detainees

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Uganda on *(a)* Dr. Kizza Besigye's treason trial, *(b)* the detention without trial of 14 alleged rebel People's Redemption Army members and *(c)* the death in detention of opposition members Denis Nabilema, Moses Dramani and David Oboma; and if he will make a statement. [165449]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We continue to monitor closely the People's Redemption Army (PRA) trial, in which Dr. Besigye is a defendant, and are pushing for a swift and fair conclusion of the legal process. We regularly raise this issue with senior members of the Ugandan government through the local Heads of Missions Partners for Democracy and Good Governance Group in Kampala. In the course of our regular dialogue with the Government of Uganda, we continue to press them, including at senior political level, on the need to engage with the opposition and develop further multi-party democracy. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials raised the PRA case with Ugandan Foreign Minister Kutesa during his visit to London in September.

Our High Commission in Kampala has sought to verify the deaths of David Oboma, Denis Nabilema and Moses Dramani. The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative in Kampala has stated that Oboma died of natural causes. Senior officials from the Forum for Democratic Change have not been able to verify the deaths of Nabilema and Dramani.

Wael al-Haj Ibrahim

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking with their international partners to secure the re-entry of Wael al-Haj Ibrahim, Head of the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs in South Darfur, into that country. [165369]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK fully supports the UN position over the expulsion of the Head of the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs in South Darfur from Nyala to Khartoum.

On 11 November, the UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator in Sudan briefed embassies in Khartoum on her discussions about this issue with the Sudanese Government. She urged the Government to use established channels, including the High Level Committee that monitors the implementation of the Joint Humanitarian Communiqué of 28 March, to resolve the issue.

We, and our international partners, continue to press the Sudanese Government to abide by their commitments under the Humanitarian Communiqué, and stand ready to give the UN Co-ordinator further support on this and other issues.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the EU is taking to support the democratic process in Zimbabwe during elections in 2008, as discussed at the EU Council meeting on 15 October 2007. [165367]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The EU is working with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and other African and international partners, to encourage the changes necessary to ensure the forthcoming elections in Zimbabwe are held in line with international standards, including those adopted by the SADC. These include the removal of all military personnel from the election management process; all parties able to hold rallies, campaign freely and have free access to the media; voting rights for the substantial Zimbabwean diaspora; and a fairer and more transparent voter registration process. We also believe that international election observers should be given access to Zimbabwe at the earliest opportunity, since preparations are already underway.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Zimbabwe. [165982]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Zimbabwe's decline is tragic and President Mugabe and his misguided policies are a large part of the problem. We are pressing for South African President Mbeki's and the Southern African Development Community's efforts to resolve Zimbabwe's problems with real improvements on the ground, an end to political violence and elections that meet international standards. We are working with them and the international community to achieve those ends. Ordinary Zimbabweans deserve no less.

TRANSPORT

Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 41-2W, on aircraft: air conditioning, what tests have been carried out for tri-cresyl phosphate in cabin air. [167144]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 41-2W. Specifically, I draw attention to the penultimate and final paragraph of my reply.

Bournemouth Airport

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans there are to improve the road link to Bournemouth airport from the A338. [166758]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 November 2007]:* The Department for Transport currently has no such plans and the South West Region has not identified such a link as a regional priority within its regional funding allocation advice to Government.

Cars: Eastern Region

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will estimate the number of households in the Eastern Region which will have two or more cars registered in each of the next 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [166427]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of households that are estimated to own two or more cars in the East of England region over the next 10 years are as follows:

	Number
2007	910,150
2008	928,542
2009	946,933
2010	965,325
2011	983,717
2012	998,605
2013	1,013,493
2014	1,028,380
2015	1,043,268
2016	1,058,156
2017	1,071,846

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of cars which are likely to be licensed in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* the Eastern Region over the next 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [166428]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's National Car Ownership Model forecasts the number of cars owned by households within areas of Great Britain. These forecasts therefore exclude vehicles that are not owned by private households, such as freight.

Household car ownership forecasts for Peterborough and the East of England Region over the next 10 years are as follows:

	Peterborough	*East of England*
2007	83,552	3,113,584
2008	85,506	3,167,863
2009	87,459	3,222,142
2010	89,413	3,276,421
2011	91,367	3,330,700
2012	93,360	3,379,737
2013	95,352	3,428,775
2014	97,345	3,477,812
2015	99,337	3,526,850
2016	101,330	3,575,887
2017	103,082	3,621,015

Congestion Charges

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) which congestion charging schemes' operating costs were greater than 40 per cent. of their revenue in the latest period for which figures are available; [166724]

(2) what the capital cost of introducing each congestion charging scheme in England has been. [166725]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 November 2007]:* There are currently three road user charging schemes in England. The Dartford Crossing and Durham charging schemes were implemented under the road user charging provisions of the Transport Act 2000, and the London congestion charge was implemented under the Greater London Authority Act 1999.

Accounts for the charging regime at Dartford are published on the Highways Agency's website. Operating costs are below 40 per cent. of revenue. The charging scheme took over the infrastructure of the toll that preceded it.

The Department does not routinely collect information on costs and revenues of the other two schemes, in London and Durham. However we understand that revenues for the Durham scheme in the last financial year were £65,820 and operating costs £26,517.

The capital cost of introducing the Durham scheme was in the region of £175,000.

For London the published figures for 2006-07 show total revenues of £252.4 million and total costs (including depreciation and start-up costs for the western extension) of £163.3 million. The original capital cost of setting up the congestion charge in 2003 was £161.7 million.

Daedalus Airfield

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will appoint a regulator for Daedalus Airfield. [166953]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Solicitors acting for the Lee Flying Association recently wrote to a number of parties, including the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, threatening to bring judicial review proceedings in respect of the decision, which I am informed the Hampshire police authority took, to close the former HMS Daedalus to general aviation due to safety concerns. The Hampshire police have now suspended its decision for 28 days.

The Government are currently considering the situation and in the circumstances, it would be inappropriate and premature for me to say any more at this stage.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to ensure that English wine is served exclusively or at the request of guests at meals, parties and receptions hosted by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [164297]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does not purchase food or drink centrally. At our main London Headquarters building food and drink for official events is usually obtained from the facilities management provider. Wine is rarely ordered.

All procurement within the Department is undertaken in line with the EU's procurement rules and to obtain value for money.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to publish her Department's autumn performance report. [164868]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We expect to publish the DfT autumn performance report in week commencing 10 December 2007.

M1: Nottinghamshire

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her most recent estimate is of the date work will start on widening the M1 motorway in Nottinghamshire; if she will ensure that concurrently with the road widening motorway lighting is installed; and if she will make a statement. [165602]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* Work to widen the M1 between J25 and J28 began with site clearance on 29 October 2007, with the main start of works in January 2008.

Further planning for the remaining sections of the M1 between J21 and J30 is being undertaken and a programme is being developed. Subject to satisfactory completion of the necessary statutory processes, I hope to be able to make an announcement about this next year.

The M1 from J25, to part way between J27 and J28 is already lit and replacement will be included as part of the widening.

Designs of the lighting have not yet been finalised for the remaining sections of the M1. The intention at this time it to follow current guidelines; which includes economic assessment, to assess the lighting need on a location by location basis.

M6: Road Traffic Control

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the status is of proposals to widen the M6; how this scheme will be affected by proposals to introduce hard shoulder driving on parts of the M6; what discussions she has had with *(a)* safety groups, *(b)* insurance groups and *(c)* other interested parties on proposals to extend hard shoulder driving beyond the M42 pilot scheme; and what motorways will be considered by her study into extending advanced signalling and traffic management systems. [163224]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency (HA) is currently investigating options for adding capacity to the M6 between junctions 11a and 19, including both widening and Active Traffic Management (ATM). This work is anticipated to lead to a public consultation in due course.

HA will also consult a wide range of stakeholders on the £150 million scheme to extend ATM to sections of the M6 around Birmingham as the detailed specification is developed, building on the relationships already established with stakeholders in relation to the M42 ATM trial. Further decisions on the possible wider application of advanced signalling and traffic management systems will be informed by the feasibility study announced on 25 October 2007. The Terms of Reference were published to Parliament through a written ministerial statement on the same day. In conducting the study we will convene a stakeholder advisory group to ensure a wide range of key interest groups are consulted.

Motor Vehicles: Licensing

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 461W, on motor vehicles: licensing, how many registered vehicle owners identified as failing to comply with a statutory off-road notice subsequently complied with the enforcement action. [167413]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the number of cases where the penalty for failure to declare a vehicle off the road was paid following enforcement action:

	£
2003-04	332,980
2004-05	336,375
2005-06	458,615
2006-07	473,079

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 461W, on motor vehicles: licensing, how many registered vehicle owners who failed to comply with a statutory off-road declaration and who failed to comply with subsequent enforcement action were consequently summonsed to appear in court. [167408]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since the inception of Continuous Registration enforcement in March 2004 cases have no longer been settled via a magistrates court summons but via a county court claim. The volumes for both are:

	Magistrates court cases	*County court claims*
2003-04	1,660	—
2004-05	111	107,100
2005-06	—	133,254
2006-07	—	107,550

Prosecution procedures for statutory off-road notifications changed in 2004 from a criminal to a civil process.

Roads: Accidents

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents there were in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall and *(c)* England in each year since 1979; and how many (i) injuries and (ii) deaths resulted from them in each year. [166714]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A table showing the number of reported personal injury road accidents in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall and *(c)* England in each year since 1979; and the resulting (i) injured casualties and (ii) fatalities has been deposited in the Libraries of the House. The information broken down by parliamentary constituency is not available for accidents prior to 1994.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department and its agencies on *(a)* motorway and trunk road building, *(b)* motorway and trunk road improvement and widening and *(c)* motorway and trunk road maintenance in each of the last five years. [163227]

Mr. Tom Harris: The spend in the last five years is as follows:

£ million

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Motorway and trunk Road building[1]	238	108	94	79	109
Motorway and trunk road improvement and widening[2]	238	140	265	426	726
Motorway and trunk road maintenance[3]	760	726	732	852	850

[1] Spend on bypass schemes included in the Highways Agency's programme of major schemes (schemes costing over £5 million)
[2] Spend on junction improvement and widening schemes included in the Highways Agency's programme of major schemes (schemes costing over £5 million)
[3] Total maintenance spend by the Highways Agency

TREASURY

Climate Change Levy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effectiveness of the Climate Change Levy in reducing carbon dioxide emissions since its introduction. [166099]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* A full assessment of the levy was published at Budget 2006. The climate change levy is estimated to have reduced emissions by a cumulative 16.5 million tonnes of carbon up to 2005 and by 2010, it is estimated to deliver savings of over 3.5 million tonnes of carbon per year.

Departmental Correspondence

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of inquiries received by his Department from the public were responded to within *(a)* one week, *(b)* 14 days, *(c)* 28 days, *(d)* two months and *(e)* three months; and in what percentage of cases it took (i) over three months and (ii) over one year to respond. [167375]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury aims to reply to all correspondence within 15 working days of receipt. Performance against this target is reported in the Department's annual report and accounts.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the total tax paid in the UK is on a litre of petrol selling for £1.0299; [162183]

(2) how much was raised in taxes on motoring in each year since 1997-98; [162185]

(3) what his most recent forecast is for receipts from petrol and diesel taxation in 2007-08; and what change there has been since budget forecasts. [162187]

Angela Eagle: The current fuel duty payable on a litre of petrol is 50.35p and is the total amount of tax paid by businesses that can reclaim VAT. For households and businesses that cannot reclaim VAT, it is charged as 17.5 per cent. on the sum of the pre-tax price of petrol and fuel duty.

Forecasts of receipts from fuel duties are published in "The Public Finances" chapter of the Budget and pre-Budget report (PBR). These are available on-line:

Budget 2007:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/C/8/bud07_chapterc_288.pdf

PBR 2007:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/F/9/pbr_csr07_annexb_305.pdf

Table B8 from the latter shows changes since the Budget.

Taxes on motoring are vehicle excise duty and hydrocarbon oils duty. The revenue raised from these taxes can be found in the following sources:

Vehicle excise duty (and hydrocarbon oils duty)—the Office for National Statistics publishes revenues since 1993 (including hydrocarbon oils) at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/ssdataset.asp?vlnk=5688

Hydrocarbon oils—table 3 of the Hydrocarbon Oils Bulletin published by HM Revenue and Customs contains revenues since 1997-98, available at:

www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil.

HM Revenue and Customs do not collect data on other taxes (such as VAT) levied on individual goods and services (such as petrol and diesel).

Company car tax (including fuel benefit charge) is the income tax and national Insurance liability for employee and director benefits-in-kind received as cars and fuel for private use and is published from 1999-2000 by HMRC. This can be found in table 4.5 at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/taxable_benefits/menu.htm.

Government Securities: Islam

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to introduce a sharia-compliant government bond. [167333]

Kitty Ussher: The Treasury and Debt Management Office published a consultation document "Government Sterling Sukuk Issuance" on 14 November, with a deadline for responses of 21 February 2008. This document is available in the House Library and on the Treasury's website at http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/6/C/consult_sukuk141107.pdf Following the consultation, the Government will consider the responses and announce a decision on the possible issuance of wholesale sterling denominated sukuk and next steps including the timetable for any primary legislation.

House Insurance: Terrorism

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements exist to compensate households for damage to property resulting from a terrorist attack; and whether his Department has reviewed the inclusion of home insurance in the Pool Re Scheme. [164734]

Kitty Ussher: Insurance cover for domestic property damage arising from fire, explosion or impact caused by an act of terrorism is widely available. Local authorities would normally take the lead in arranging decontamination of domestic properties following a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incident caused by terrorist activity.

The Government have no plans to review the inclusion of domestic property insurance in the Pool Re scheme.

Office of Government Commerce

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the savings made by the Office of Government Commerce as a result of implementing *(a)* e-commerce, *(b)* e-catalogues, *(c)* corporate cards and *(d)* e-auctions in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [165219]

Angela Eagle: The following information has been provided by OGC and OGCbuying.solutions and covers each year since 2003-04.

(a) eCommerce (eSourcing savings)

The detail from those customers that have responded with savings based on an approved methodology, identifies savings for the current financial year of £1.065 million.

(b) eCatalogues (eProcurement)

Savings for the current financial year have been estimated to be £110,000.

Savings methods are still being finalised for this service which started trading in summer 2006. The service is going through a significant period of growth and we expect substantial savings to arise from 2008-09 onwards.

(c) Corporate cards (Government Procurement Cards)

The estimated process savings derived from GPC for the years indicated are as follows:

	£
2003-04	52,384,584
2004-05	69,356,868
2005-06	86,548,140
2006-07	115,673,264

(d) eAuctions framework

	Total number of auctions	*Total pre-auction value (£)*	*Total saving (£)*
2003	4	3,371,836	1,007,170
2004	37	93,759,842	19,460,093
2005	62	333,854,589	83,506,922
2006	68	2,011,059,499	281,743,506
2007	60	933,219,709	147,149,598
Total	231	3,375,265,475	532,867,288

In addition, OGC has operated seven collaborative reverse e-auctions since 2005 to procure IT hardware on behalf of a range of public sector organisations. Those auctions have generated estimated savings of £22.45 million.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which of the Office of Government Commerce's contracts became shared contracts, including by sharing current contracts across central government, in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [165220]

Angela Eagle: OGC has two contracts which are open to central government departments. These are the Financial Analysis Services Framework and Strategic Assignments Consultancy Service Framework.

In addition, OGC is working with Government departments to ensure that their contracts are open for use across Government. Wherever possible, OGC uses framework agreements and shared contracts for domestic procurements. All departments are encouraged to use existing contracts where they represent good value for money.

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many events were held by the Office of Government Commerce in each year since 2003-04; how much was spent on those events was; and if he will make a statement. [165222]

Angela Eagle: OGC holds a number of events on an annual basis. Examples of which include conferences, seminars, and workshops.

	Number of events	*Cost*
2003-04	39	253,920
2004-05	43	392,828
2005-06	43	185,001
2006-07	22	66,556

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procurement savings have been achieved by the Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions since 2003-04; in respect of which support services they were achieved; and if he will make a statement. [165227]

Angela Eagle: OGCbuying.solutions provides customers in the public sector with a tried and tested route to the procurement of high quality, value-for-money goods and services.

Performance against savings target as follows:

	Target	*£ million Actual*
2003-04	120	152
2004-05	300	321
2005-06	400	412
2006-07	500	516

Pay: Public Sector

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the levels of average public sector pay increases were in each year since 1997. [166349]

Andy Burnham: The Office for National Statistics publishes data on increases in public sector pay—the Average Earnings Index (AEI)—which is available at www.statistics.gov.uk This data refers to the average earnings of a work force or sector (in the form of an index), and the growth of this each year, which includes the effect of things like progression rates, work force and pay system restructuring, changes in work force composition, and the basic pay awards (the uplift of pay scales), among others.

Public-Private Forum on Identity Management

David Davis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the report from the Public-Private Forum on identity to be published; and for what reasons its publication has been delayed. [166097]

Andy Burnham: Sir James Crosby was appointed to establish and chair the Public-Private Forum on Identity Management in July 2006 with a remit to produce a preliminary report to Ministers by Easter 2007. In March 2007 he discussed his preliminary conclusions with the then Chancellor of the Exchequer and was invited to work on with the Forum to produce a fuller report later in the year. The report is now being finalised. It is expected to be delivered to Ministers later this year, as agreed with Sir James. No date has been fixed for publication, which may be later this year or next year.

Tripartite Arrangements

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what scenarios have been used to test the effectiveness of the tripartite arrangements between his Department, the Bank of England and the Financial Services Authority. [164466]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 15 November 2007]:* The tripartite arrangements have been tested regularly over recent years. For public policy reasons details of the scenarios are not published where they cover financial stability events.

The authorities have also regularly tested their responses to operational disruption scenarios. Since 2004 the tripartite has arranged an annual market-wide exercise, involving both the authorities and a cross-section of financial sector firms, to test responses to operational disruption covering terrorist attacks and pandemic influenza outbreak.

Reports on these exercises can be found on the UK Financial Sector Continuity website:

www.fsc.gov.uk.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Beaches: Financing

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the funding formula for local government takes account of the costs of managing and providing facilities on beaches for local authorities in coastal areas. [165323]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

Formula grant is largely calculated on the basis of the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of an authority, for example the number of visitors to an area, together with the number of band-D equivalent properties within the area. Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant, and decisions on local spending priorities are for local authorities to take.

Beaches: EU Law

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons each of the 20 coastal bathing sites which did not meet minimum bathing water standards in summer 2007 did not meet those standards; and if he will make a statement. [166553]

Mr. Woolas: My Department holds information on nine of the 20 bathing waters in the UK which failed to meet the minimum standards during the 2007 bathing season.

The reasons for failure at these nine sites are set out in the following table. These were mainly a combination of sewage pollution and/or diffuse water pollution from agriculture.

In addition, eight of these nine failures were affected by exceptionally heavy or persistent rainfall, as this summer was the wettest since records began.

Region	*Bathing Water*	*Main reason(s) for failure*	*Affected by rainfall*
North East	Runswick Bay	Agricultural and sewage pollution	Yes
	Sandsend	Agricultural pollution	Yes
	Staithes	Agricultural pollution	Yes
North West	Aldingham	Sewage pollution	Yes
	Morecambe South	Agricultural pollution	Yes
	St. Annes	Agricultural and sewage pollution	Yes
South West	Bude Summerleaze	Agricultural and sewage pollution	No
	Instow	Agricultural pollution	Yes
	Mothecombe	Agricultural and sewage pollution	Yes

Information on bathing water failures in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland is held by the relevant devolved administrations.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) for what reasons the requirement to test bathing water once every fortnight has been changed to once every month in the draft Bathing Water Regulations 2008; and if he will make a statement; [166632]

(2) what he estimates the effect on his Department's expenditure will be of testing bathing water once a month instead of once a fortnight; and if he will make a statement. [166634]

Mr. Woolas: The revised Bathing Water Directive (rBWD) requires, as a minimum, that no fewer than four bathing water samples are taken per bathing water per season. These requirements are reflected in the draft transposing regulations for England and Wales, which were recently issued as part of a Government consultation on the implementation of the rBWD.

As discussed in the consultation document, the Environment Agency is currently investigating the risks associated with changes to its current monitoring programme (from 20 samples per bathing water) to reflect the reduced frequency of sampling allowed by the rBWD.

My Department and the Welsh Assembly Government are awaiting the outcome of the Environment Agency's investigations before making any decisions about future sampling frequency. Initial indications are that a reduction in sampling frequency may be limited.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what budget has been allocated for the monitoring and testing of beaches in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [166633]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is the competent authority in England and Wales for monitoring and testing water quality at bathing waters designated under the European Bathing Waters Directive.

In 1997, the Agency routinely tested water quality at 447 sites. This had increased to 494 sites by 2007. The Environment Agency takes approximately 20 water samples per site every year during the bathing season (from 15 May to 30 September).

Since 1997, the money that has been spent on monitoring and testing beaches has increased in line with the number of bathing waters identified under this legislation.

The number and cost of bathing waters monitoring from 1997 - 2007 is set out in the following table:

	Number of bathing waters	*Cost (£000)*
1997	447	369
1998	466	385
1999	470	388
2000	480	396
2001	481	397
2002	482	398
2003	489	404
2004	491	406
2005	494	408
2006	493	408
2007	494	408

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason he proposes to amend the Bathing Water Regulations 2007. [166635]

Mr. Woolas: I assume that the hon. Member is referring to the Bathing Water (Classification) Regulations 1991, which transposed the current Bathing Water Directive (cBWD), 76/160/EEC.

A revised Bathing Water Directive (rBWD), 2006/7/EC, which came into force in March 2006, updates and simplifies the cBWD.

New legislation (the Bathing Water Regulations 2008, which is currently the subject of a public consultation) is required to transpose the rBWD into UK law, and revoke the 1991 regulations at the same time.

Fisheries: Navy

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which vessels are available to the Marine and Fisheries Agency and the Fishery Protection Squadron for enforcing fisheries rules; and if he will make a statement. [166430]

Jonathan Shaw: There are three River Class vessels and three Hunt Class vessels available to the Marine and Fisheries Agency and the Fishery Protection Squadron in 2007-08.

The three River Class vessels available are HMS Tyne, HMS Severn and HMS Mersey.

The three Hunt Class vessels available are HMS Quorn, HMS Ledbury and HMS Brocklesby.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many patrol days the River Class offshore patrol vessels have provided for the Fishery Protection Squadron in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [166431]

Jonathan Shaw: The following tables record the number of days that both the River and Hunt Class patrol vessels have patrolled in the last 19 months.

Patrol days 2006-07

Month	*Days*	*Profile*	*Ships*	*Contract days*	*Total profile*	*Total days*	*Balance*	*OPVs*	*IPVs*	*% OPVs*
April	30	75	4	66	75	66	-9	57	9	86.37
May	31	80	4	79	155	145	-10	118	27	81.38
June	30	85	4	81	240	226	-14	172	54	76.11
July	31	85	4	92	325	318	-7	235	83	73.9
August	31	80	4	80	405	398	-7	299	99	75.13
SEPT	30	80	4	80	485	478	-7	345	133	72.18
October	31	65	4	73	550	551	+1	394	157	71.51
November	30	60	4	54	610	605	-5	436	169	72.07
December	31	45	3	42	655	647	-8	467	180	72.18
January	31	50	3	51	705	698	-7	509	189	72.92
February	28	70	4	77	775	775	0	568	207	73.29
March	31	75	4	70	850	845	-5	620	225	73.37
Total	365	850	—	—	850	845	—	620	225	—

OPV = Offshore patrol vessel = Rivers
IPV = Inshore patrol vessel = Hunts

Patrol days 2007-08

Month	*Days*	*Profile*	*Ships*	*Contract days*	*Total profile*	*Total days*	*Balance*	*OPVs*	*IPVs*	*Total days % OPVs*
April	30	70	4	66	70	66	-4	52	14	78.79
May	31	75	4	79	145	145	0	50	29	70.34
June	30	75	4	66	220	211	-9	44	22	69.19
July	31	75	4	69	295	280	-15	59	10	73.21
August	31	75	4	78	370	358	-12	64	14	75.14
September	30	75	4	77	445	435	-10	58	19	75.17
October	31	60	4	67	505	502	-3	54	13	75.9
November	30	60	4	—	565	—	—	—	—	—
December	31	45	3	—	610	—	—	—	—	—
January	31	50	3	—	660	—	—	—	—	—
February	29	70	4	—	730	—	—	—	—	—
March	31	70	4	—	800	—	—	—	—	—
Total	366	800	—	—	800	—	—	—	—	—

Note:
OPV = Offshore patrol vessel = Rivers
IPV = Inshore patrol vessel = Hunts

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the highest number of River Class offshore patrol vessels allocated to the Fishery Protection Squadron at any one time *(a)* has been and *(b)* will be in the new contract period from 1 April 2008; and if he will make a statement. [166433]

Jonathan Shaw: There are three River Class vessels allocated to the Fishery Protection Squadron which will be included in the new contact period. This is the highest number there has been at any one time.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his assessment is of the operational efficiency of the River Class offshore patrol vessels; and if he will make a statement. [166435]

Jonathan Shaw: The River Class vessels, built in the last five years, are much faster vessels than the older Hunts (18 years+), with a maximum speed of 22 knots compared to a maximum of 15 knots on the Hunts and they are able to stay at sea for longer periods. Rivers currently carry out 12-day patrols followed by a two-day stand-off whereas the Hunts carry out seven to eight-day patrols followed by a two-day stand-off.

The River Class vessels are equipped and manned to be able to routinely deploy two sea-boats to carry out simultaneous inspections, whereas the Hunts are equipped to use one sea-boat. They do exceptionally use two sea-boats if weather and crewing permit.

Rivers have a higher complement of qualified British Sea Fisheries Officers (BSFOs), carrying an average of four at all times whereas the Hunts carry an average of three qualified BSFOs.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many patrol days were undertaken by each class of Fisheries Protection Squadron vessel in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [166464]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table records the number of patrol days undertaken by offshore and inshore patrol vessels since 1995.

		Offshore patrol vessels		*Inshore patrol vessels*	
Calendar year or agreement year	*Patrol days*	*Days*	*Percentage*	*Days*	*Percentage*
1995	1,156	689	59.6	467	40.4
1996	1,181	683	57.8	498	42.2
1997	1,158	782	67.5	376	32.5
1998	1,081	803	74.3	278	25.7
2000	964	546	56.6	418	43.4
2001-02	957	642	67.08	315	32.92
2002-03	942	579	61.46	363	38.54
2003-04	908	658	72.47	250	27.53
2004-05	880	626	71.13	254	28.87
2005-06	855	636	74.39	219	25.61
2006-07	845	620	73.37	225	26.63

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the risk of fraud being carried out by warm front contractors participating in the Warm Front Scheme. [166305]

Mr. Woolas: Eaga plc, the Warm Front Scheme Manager, assesses the qualifications and financial probity of potential installers before they are contracted to work on the scheme. Once engaged in the scheme eaga plc performs regular audits on their performance.

DEFRA also employs independent quality assessors, who perform regular audits of Warm Front, to ensure that all elements of the scheme are being delivered to a high standard.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of people who have received a Warm Front grant who have been required to pay further costs on top of the grant. [166308]

Mr. Woolas: Since June 2005, 535,882 households have received assistance through the Warm Front Scheme. Of these households 90,789 have been required to pay an excess, equating to 16.9 per cent. of those assisted.

Whales: Japan

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps he plans to take in response to Japan's resumption of whaling; [167140]

(2) what his policy is on Japan's resumption of whaling; and if he will make a statement; [167141]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on Japan's resumption of whaling. [167142]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK, together with a majority of members of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), has consistently criticised Japan for its lethal whaling operations, authorised under special permits (so called 'scientific' whaling) and urged Japan to desist from these operations forthwith.

Like most IWC members, we do not believe that lethal scientific research can be justified: there are perfectly adequate non-lethal alternatives which could secure the information required by the IWC for stock assessment and management purposes. The whale meat and other products from this so-called 'scientific' whaling are sold domestically in Japanese markets and restaurants. These whaling operations severely hamper international efforts to conserve and protect whales, and clearly demonstrate that these programmes are driven by commercial, rather than scientific considerations.

Japan's proposal to kill 50 humpback whales, a species that remains on the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) List of Threatened Species, is nothing less than outrageous. We will continue to make our opposition to whaling known to Japan at every appropriate opportunity, and argue that Japanese action undermines the credibility of the IWC as an effective organisation for the conservation of whale stocks worldwide.

Whaling is not an issue on which the European Union (EU) exercises competence. As such, it is not generally a subject for discussion at meetings of EU Ministers.

At official level, we do have regular contact with other like-minded countries, including those EU countries who are, like the UK, parties to the International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling and thus members of the IWC.

SCOTLAND

Act of Union 1707: Anniversaries

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans the Government have for celebrating the Act of Union of 1707. [165060]

David Cairns: The Government have supported a number of commemorative events to celebrate the Act of Union of 1707, including:

a commemorative two-pound coin;

an historical exhibition, "Making the Act of Union 1707", in the Royal Gallery, House of Lords, which then transferred to the Scottish Parliament.

a treaty of union debating competition organised by the English-Speaking Union;

an arts outreach project on the theme "Tales of the United Kingdom" organised by The Prince of Wales's Arts & Kids Foundation;

a plaque commemorating the Act of Union 1707 in St. Stephen's Hall in the Palace of Westminster; and

the naming of a mainline train, "Treaty of Union".

Burglary: Self-Defence

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met the Advocate-General to discuss the use of self-defence in cases of burglary. [167558]

David Cairns: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular meetings with my noble Friend the Advocate-General, where they discuss a wide range of issues.

Departmental Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) how many reports have been made to his Department's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised Civil Service Code since its publication on 6 June 2006; [162453]

(2) how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to his Department by departmental staff since 6 June 2006; [162454]

(3) when his Department's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised Civil Service Code. [162455]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Secretary at the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron), on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 597W.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained (A) temporary and (B) permanent jobs in his Department in 2007. [165115]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not directly appoint staff; they are seconded from other Departments. The Office has no information on the ages of individuals who have applied to these Departments.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what entertainment or hospitality members of the Department's management board have received in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [164744]

David Cairns: Paragraph 4.3.5 of the Civil Service Management Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by members of departmental boards. The first list for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the current calendar year.

Departmental Opinion Polls

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what opinion polls the Department has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164943]

David Cairns: None.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many full-time equivalent staff are responsible for brand management and marketing in his Department. [165208]

David Cairns: None.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) how much his Department and its agencies spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; [167297]

(2) how much his Department and its agencies spent on managing their corporate identities in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167342]

David Cairns: Nothing.

Departmental Repairs and Maintenance

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been spent by his Department on renovation and refurbishment of its properties in each of the last five years. [164366]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not separately identify the costs of renovation and refurbishment from the routine repair and replacement of existing facilities. Over the period of the last five years, the Office has shared its accommodation with a number of other Government Departments. The figures in the following table show the gross total for repairs and maintenance of Scotland Office buildings but do not include the contribution by the Departments towards their share of the costs.

	£
2002-03	99,310
2003-04	179,853
2004-05	374,129
2005-06	331,803
2006-07	355,071

Departmental Standards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he expects to publish his Department's autumn performance report. [164865]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has no public service agreements; the Office's performance indicators are published in our annual report.

Scottish Language

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps have been taken by the Government to comply with the recommendations of the report of the Committee of Experts on the Charter for Minority and Regional Languages in respect of Scottish Gaelic and Scots. [162784]

David Cairns: *[holding answer 12 November 2007]*: Implementation of the Charter for Minority and Regional Languages falls, in the main, to the devolved administrations of the Welsh Assembly Government, the Scottish Executive and the Northern Ireland Executive.

The Scotland Office, along with DCMS and relevant stakeholders, including the BBC, are working to establish a dedicated Gaelic digital service to be launched next year. This new service will help meet the cultural, linguistic and educational needs of the Gaelic community and promote the benefits to the wider community.

Scottish Parliament: Elections

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will publish minutes of meetings held with Scotland Office Ministers and the Ron Gould Scottish Elections review team. [165814]

David Cairns *[holding answer 19 November 2007]*: The one meeting between Scotland Office Ministers and Ron Gould plus his review team was a private discussion and no agreed minute was taken. A note drawn up for internal purposes only covered the seven key issue areas which Gould made the focus of his review. Also discussed was Mr. Gould's request to have access to ballot paper images to assist in his analysis of rejected papers. I will provide to the Scottish Affairs Committee, to assist them with their discussions, the timelines for legislation and ballot paper design that were requested by Ron Gould as written evidence from the Scotland Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were prosecuted for selling alcohol to minors in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* Peterborough city council area in each year since 1997. [165916]

Mr. Coaker: Between the years of 1997-2005 only one person was proceeded against for the illegal sale of alcohol to minors in Peterborough petty sessional area. The proceeding took place in 2005 and the defendant was found guilty. The data provided cannot identify whether the defendant was a resident of Peterborough.

Information broken down by *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local council area are not held by the ministry of justice.

In addition to court proceedings, the offence of illegal sale of alcohol to minors can attract a penalty notice for disorder (PND), PND data are only available broken down by police force area.

Information for 2006 will be available at the end of November 2007.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many confiscations by police of alcohol and alcohol containers from under-age drinkers under the Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 have taken place in each of the last five years in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area. [165665]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not routinely record or hold this information.

Arrests: Terrorism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested for and *(b)* convicted of terrorist offences in each of the last five years. [166493]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 November 2007]*: Information on the number of arrests and convictions for terrorist offences for people in respect of whom legal proceedings are not active is not available as the information is not collated in this way.

Latest UK police terrorism arrest statistics (excluding Northern Ireland) from 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2007 show 1,228 arrests were made: of which there have been 41 Terrorism Act convictions and 183 convictions under other legislation. Statistics are available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security/terrorism-and-the-law/?view=Standard

Civil Service: Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Civil Service pay band is for Louise Casey. [164803]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

Louise Casey is a senior civil service pay band 2. An explanation of pay bands for senior civil servants can be found in the Review Body of Senior Salaries latest report, which is available on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/documents/pdf/pay_reward/29th_report_2007.pdf

Convictions: Rape

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish the results of her Department's study of differential rape convictions and detection rates in eight police force areas in England and Wales. [166409]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* Home Office Online Report 18/7 'Investigating and Detecting Recorded Offences of Rape' was published on 20 July 2007. It is available on the Home Office website.

Crime: Young People

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of crimes committed by persons aged between 16 and 25 years in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall and *(c)* England in each year since 1979. [166713]

Mr. Coaker: Estimates of the cost of crimes committed by persons aged between 16 and 25 years in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in Cornwall and *(c)* England are not routinely calculated, and could be provided in part and only at disproportionate cost.

Domestic Violence: Wales

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women in Wales have reported incidents of domestic violence in each of the last five years; and what measures are in place to support women who report domestic violence. [165985]

Mr. Coaker: The Welsh Assembly Government have put in place a domestic abuse strategy for Wales.

One of the key aims of the strategy is to increase the number of incidents reported to the police so that action can be taken to prevent repeat victimisation. The indications are that there has been some success with this. Police recorded incidents in Wales are up to nearly 35,000 in 2006-07, from 26,854 in 2002-03.

The Welsh Assembly Government are working closely with the Home Office on implementing a number of initiatives to support women who report domestic violence. These include developing specialist domestic violence courts (SDVCs). There are now seven SDVCs in Wales and separate arrangements being rolled out in Gwent.

The Home Office has also funded independent domestic violence advisor services in these areas, and the implementation of multi-agency risk assessment conferences, both of which aim to increase the safety of high risk victims of domestic violence.

Driving Under Influence: Drugs

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in the development of a roadside impairment testing apparatus for use in the identification of drug use by drivers. [165189]

Mr. Coaker: Following extensive development work with manufacturers and other independent experts, the Forensic Science Service aims to issue by Christmas a specification for a drug screening device. The purpose of the device will be to test for the presence in a driver's person of any of six drug types above specified levels. These drug types are known to be capable of causing impairment. It will then be for manufacturers to prepare a device in line with the specification and submit it for type approval. Type approval is necessary before the police can use a device for drug-driving enforcement.

The police are already conducting impairment tests using a prescribed Field Impairment Testing regime. The HO Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB) has been considering possible improvements to this regime and intends to pursue these in discussion with the Department for Transport. HOSDB has also been investigating the possible development of an impairment measuring device and is keeping in close contact with others working in this area. Funding has now been agreed for work to be taken forward in partnership with a suitable university or other outside agency.

Fraud

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will include fraud offences in the 2008 British Crime Survey; and what steps she is taking to raise public awareness of the dangers of fraud. [166218]

Mr. Coaker: The British Crime Survey (BCS) is a nationally representative survey of households in England and Wales. Its primary purpose is to estimate levels of crime committed against the population of private households and adults living in such households. As such, the survey cannot estimate crimes committed against those outside the scope of the survey, such as commercial and public sector bodies.

The BCS provides a measure of fraud (including identity fraud) committed against individuals in private households, which is important because it captures unreported incidents. However, fraud is a complex area and there are conceptual difficulties around its definition and measurement in surveys. On the one hand, some members of the public who had been victims of poor service may perceive themselves to have been de-frauded, when this is not the case in law, whereas many of those who had been genuine victims of fraud may not be aware of the fact.

A special module of questions has been included in the BCS in recent years focusing on credit and debit card, internet and identity fraud. However, fraud offences are not currently included within the main crime count of the BCS.

The most recent results have been reported in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/07 'Crime in England and Wales 2006/2007'. More detailed figures can be found in the Home Office Online Report 10/07 'Mobile phone theft, plastic card and identity fraud: Findings from the 2005/06 British Crime Survey'. New questions have recently been developed, in the card and ID fraud module currently being run within the BCS, and these will be reviewed before continuing inclusion in the 2008/09 BCS.

Information about fraud is included on a number of Government websites including that of the Home Office, which also created and maintains a mini site devoted to fraud within the Government's Crime Reduction Website. The Get Safe Online website, a joint Government and private sector initiative, provides advice to help computer users stay safe online and includes information about fraud. The Home Office has also produced, in conjunction with the banking industry, a leaflet to help prevent plastic card fraud. The leaflet was distributed to police forces and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and is available on the Home Office website.

The cross Whitehall review of fraud which reported last year recommended establishing a National Fraud Strategic Authority (NFSA) which will implement a national strategy on fraud. Key actions for the NFSA will be to raise the profile of fraud and to co-ordinate the response to it. A measurement will also be established within the NFSA to measure the national extent of fraud based on robust measurement methodologies.

Hijacking: Lorries

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many truck hijackings have been reported to police in each region in the last 12 months. [166460]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available from the recorded crime statistics.

Homicide: Religion

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reported honour killings there were in each police force area in each of the last 10 years. [165504]

Mr. McNulty: The requested information cannot be provided. Such circumstances cannot be identified from centrally-held homicide data.

Human Trafficking

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding has been allocated to Operation Pentameter 2; and if she will make a statement. [165196]

Mr. Coaker: Tackling human trafficking is core police business. Forces receive over £11 billion in grant annually and work undertaken as part of Operation Pentameter 2 is being met from existing funding streams. The Government have awarded Eaves Housing for Women a grant of £2.4 million over two years to provide tailored high-level support for victims of trafficking. We are investing an additional £100,000 to top-up this grant for Pentameter 2.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the outcomes of Operation Pentameter 2; and if she will make a statement. [165205]

Mr. Coaker: Operational Pentameter 2 is still ongoing. An evaluation of intelligence obtained and conduct of the operation will be undertaken following its completion.

Motor Vehicles: Theft

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the five most common makes and models of vehicles stolen in each police authority area were in each of the last five years. [165677]

Mr. Coaker: Estimates of the numbers of cars stolen, by make and model, at national level in each of the calendar years 2003, 2004 and 2005, were recently published on the Home Office website, along with details of how these estimates were arrived at.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policingroads.html

We do not hold this information at police force area level.

National Security

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on each of the 12 points outlined by the former Prime Minister as security measures on 5 August 2005; and if she will make a statement. [165724]

Mr. McNulty: Progress on each of the 12 points is set out in the following table.

Progress on 12 point plan

Measure	*Progress*
1. Introduce new grounds under which the Government can deport and exclude foreign nationals (i.e. on the basis of incitement/glorification as well as direct national security threat)	Since the introduction of the new grounds of Unacceptable Behaviour for deportation and exclusion, 65 individuals have been excluded from the UK and 1 deported. A further 40 exclusion and 4 deportation cases are under consideration.

Progress on 12 point plan

Measure	*Progress*
	Separately, we are also seeking to deport people on national security grounds under longstanding immigration powers. Since 7 July 2005, 9 foreign nationals have been deported under immigration powers on grounds of national security (8 Algerians and 1 French national). A further 24 foreign nationals are subject to deportation proceedings on grounds of national security.
2. To create an offence of condoning or glorifying terrorism	The Terrorism Act 2006 includes the new offence of encouraging terrorism, including glorifying terrorism, which is now in force.
3. To refuse asylum in this country automatically to anyone who has participated in terrorism	Section 54 in the Immigration and Nationality Act allows us to deny asylum to terrorists while respecting our obligations under the Refugee Treaty. Section 55 in the Act allows the Secretary of State to certify that an appellant is not entitled to the protection of the Refugee Convention.
4. To consult on extending the powers to strip citizenship, applying them to British citizens engaged in extremism and making the procedures more effective	A provision included in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 lowers the bar for removal of citizenship by replacing one of the existing criteria with a new power to deprive where such action is held by the Home Secretary to be "conducive to the public good". The power came into force on 16 June 2006. One person has been deprived under this new power. A number of other cases are being actively pursued having been identified as priority cases by the Security Service and the Special Cases Oversight Board.
5. To consult on setting a maximum time limit for all future extradition cases involving terrorism	Rashid Ramda extradited. The tri-departmental group set up to speed up the extradition of terrorist suspects has concluded that part of its work and is now considering how to prepare for the expected surge in European Arrest Warrants after the introduction of the Schengen Information System 2 computer in 2010.
6. To examine a new court procedure to allow a pre-trial process to allow sensitive evidence to be brought forward in court.	Pre-trial processes considered. Decided not to take forward. We are awaiting the outcome of the Privy Council review on using intercept as evidence.
7. To extend the use of control orders for those who are British nationals and cannot be deported	The last Control Order Quarterly Statement to Parliament on 17 September 2007 confirmed that there are 14 orders currently in force, 8 of which are in respect of British citizens. Control orders continue to be an important tool to address the threat posed by suspected terrorists who cannot currently be prosecuted or, in respect of foreign nationals, who cannot be removed from the UK. But they are not perfect, and never have been.
8. To expand the court capacity to deal with control orders	Work continues to review the capacity of the courts, specialist tribunals and the judiciary to deal with existing and anticipated caseload relating to terrorism.
9. To proscribe Hizb-ut Tahrir and the successor organisation of Al Mujahiroun	The Terrorism Act 2006 widens the criteria for proscription. Two of the successor organisations to Al Mujahiroun were proscribed in July 2006. HUT are a group of real concern and remain under review.
10. To review the acquisition of British citizenship to make sure that it is adequate and to establish with the Muslim community a commission to advise on better integration	We have extended the requirement to be of good character to virtually all applicants for British citizenship. The relevant provision, section 58 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, was commenced on 4 December 2006. We are also looking at extending the checks carried out to establish good character. The Commission on Integration and Cohesion was launched on 24 August 2006 with a remit to identify local and practical ways in which cohesion could be built. It reported on 14 June 2007 and made 57 recommendations. On 5 October 2007, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced her initial response to the report, which included £50 million additional funding for local authorities over the next three years to build cohesion. This will be followed by a full response in the new year.
11. To consult on a new power to order closure of a place of worship which is used as a centre for fermenting extremism and to consult with Muslim leaders in respect of those clerics who are not British citizens to draw up a list of those not suitable to preach and who will be excluded from our country in the future	The public consultation on taking powers to close place of worship resulted in a decision not to legislate at this stage. This decision was announced to Parliament on 15 December 2005. The Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB) formally launched on the 29 October 2007 alongside a set of draft core minimum standards and constitution for mosques and imams in the UK.

Progress on 12 point plan

Measure	*Progress*
	MINAB have also contributed to the work of the Border and Immigration Agency on Entry requirements for ministers of religion.
12. To bring forward the proposed measures on the security of our borders with a series of countries specifically designated for biometric visas over the next year	By March 2007, all visa applicants (100 nationalities) will be required to provide biometric data (10 fingerscans and digital photograph) wherever in the world they apply for a UK visa. The equipment and process changes to enable this are being deployed overseas between autumn 2006 and the end of 2007. We are currently collecting biometric data from all visa applicants in 115 countries and checking the data against records held on the Border and Immigration Agency's Immigration Fingerprint Service database. The intention is that in due course all fingerscans will be checked against the Border and Immigration Agency's Immigration and Asylum Fingerprint Service database held in the UK, and the police national database, prior to reaching a decision on the visa application.

Police

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the population is of each police force area. [166411]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 November 2007]*: Population figures used in the most recent Home Office statistical bulletins on crime and police numbers, and relating to police force areas in England and Wales, are shown in the following table.

Mid 2005 population for each police force area

	Thousand
Avon and Somerset	1531
Bedfordshire	583
Cambridgeshire	749
Cheshire	993
Cleveland	553
Cumbria	499
Derbyshire	981
Devon and Cornwall	1629
Dorset	702
Durham	599
Dyfed Powys	505
Essex	1646
Gloucestershire	575
Greater Manchester	2548
Gwent	556
Hampshire	1811
Hertfordshire	1048
Humberside	891
Kent	1621
Lancashire	1439
Leicestershire	953
Lincolnshire	679
London, City of	9
Merseyside	1367
Metropolitan Police	7509
Norfolk	824
North Wales	675
North Yorkshire	769
Northamptonshire	652
Northumbria	1407
Nottinghamshire	1041
South Wales	1222
South Yorkshire	1286
Staffordshire	1055
Suffolk	692
Surrey	1076
Sussex	1517
Thames Valley	2139
Warwickshire	534
West Mercia	1185
West Midlands	2591
West Yorkshire	2119
Wiltshire	631

Source:
Office of National Statistics Census-revised mid-year estimates.

Police: Firearms

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers carried firearms as a regular part of their duties in each of the last 10 years in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* in each police force area. [165673]

Mr. McNulty: The number of authorised firearms officers in police forces in England and Wales for each year since 1996-97 are shown in the following table.

Number of authorised firearms officers (AFOs)

	1996-97	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Total	6,738	6,585	6,308	6,262	6,064	5,776	5,763	6,096	6,243	6,584
Avon and Somerset	165	161	153	150	135	116	84	122	118	117
Bedfordshire	46	42	50	46	45	48	53	58	56	59
Cambridgeshire	90	80	80	77	73	56	71	60	60	50
Cheshire	70	82	70	75	74	81	89	75	76	73
Cleveland	86	84	78	80	75	85	80	95	100	100
City of London	88	81	55	73	74	73	72	86	89	96

Number of authorised firearms officers (AFOs)

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Cumbria	108	122	98	98	94	92	87	89	90	89
Derbyshire	110	100	87	77	81	80	69	70	74	75
Devon and Cornwall	151	147	82	119	100	108	115	132	123	122
Dorset	74	72	72	66	67	57	59	60	64	62
Durham	138	144	96	101	101	86	102	97	103	100
Essex	228	217	235	228	195	180	184	186	202	205
Gloucestershire	82	84	79	77	72	71	80	82	93	92
Gtr Manchester	209	182	217	218	240	219	202	205	187	245
Hampshire	106	112	110	111	100	87	94	94	92	97
Hertfordshire	42	41	43	52	44	46	47	50	53	52
Humberside	90	102	102	97	102	96	96	96	101	92
Kent	150	150	130	136	136	113	93	90	94	94
Lancashire	132	125	132	143	132	138	129	122	115	123
Leicestershire	104	94	90	90	85	69	68	51	53	59
Lincolnshire	82	85	75	78	80	91	87	78	86	87
Merseyside	147	165	121	96	103	78	84	94	93	129
Metropolitan	2,035	1,971	1,951	1,977	1,940	1,805	1,823	2,060	2,134	2,331
Norfolk	98	102	109	110	114	104	109	114	125	119
Northamptonshire	92	92	92	75	77	51	56	52	50	56
Northumbria	173	126	123	114	109	125	99	90	93	98
North Yorkshire	108	95	83	59	66	66	64	60	56	78
Nottinghamshire	128	129	120	116	137	136	131	138	138	149
South Yorkshire	110	108	90	100	98	92	100	98	122	116
Staffordshire	78	86	92	81	67	71	63	67	76	70
Suffolk	82	96	101	98	90	90	80	96	88	84
Surrey	76	61	69	71	72	62	48	53	49	51
Sussex	180	146	156	131	118	120	141	134	130	129
Thames Valley	185	194	179	187	185	156	180	172	176	180
Warwickshire	41	38	44	54	45	50	51	46	53	55
West Mercia	155	159	139	129	130	125	131	139	141	152
West Midlands	88	95	92	93	83	111	110	124	134	145
West Yorkshire	131	114	128	110	117	116	132	140	130	150
Wiltshire	134	105	88	89	71	71	78	80	74	72
Dyfed Powys	70	71	67	65	61	77	62	58	79	68
Gwent	70	59	64	68	66	57	60	71	74	86
North Wales	72	90	97	92	67	83	75	73	65	57
South Wales	134	176	169	155	143	138	125	139	134	130

Police: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police force scenes of crime officers there were in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [164802]

Mr. McNulty: Information collected by the Home Office relates to the numbers of police officers and police staff that are primarily involved in the function "Scenes of Crime". Data on this basis are available from 2005 and are contained in the following table.

Scenes of crime function[1,2] (FTE) in England and Wales as at 31 March

	Total number of officers/staff
2005	2977
2006	3101
2007	3067

[1] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual chief constables.
[2] Overall force totals including those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual headcount is of uniformed police officers in each London borough division of the Metropolitan police force; and if she will make a statement. [166675]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* The latest information available centrally relates to number of officers in post on 31 March 2007 for basic command units of the Metropolitan police (which corresponds with London boroughs, plus Heathrow). These figures appear in the following table.

Decisions on the deployment of officers to each BCU are a matter for the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

Police officer strength by Metropolitan police basic command unit, 31 March 2007[1]

BCU	Number of police officers (full-time equivalent)
Barking and Dagenham	427
Barnet	551
Bexley	371

Police officer strength by Metropolitan police basic command unit, 31 March 2007[1]

BCU	*Number of police officers (full-time equivalent)*
Brent	672
Bromley	493
Camden	812
City of Westminster	1,561
Croydon	684
Ealing	681
Enfield	582
Greenwich	632
Hackney	744
Hammersmith and Fulham	562
Haringey	689
Harrow	354
Havering	383
Hillingdon	495
Hounslow	519
Islington	678
Kensington and Chelsea	568
Kingston upon Thames	294
Lambeth	953
Lewisham	619
Merton	377
Newham	758
Redbridge	467
Richmond upon Thames	303
Southwark	846
Sutton	306
Tower Hamlets	756
Waltham Forest	543
Wandsworth	599
Heathrow	480

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Due to rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Police: Video Recordings

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces routinely record on video, or audio tape, briefings to officers before armed operations. [165573]

Mr. McNulty: The Association of Chief Police Officers Working Group on the Police Use of Firearms issued guidance on 18 June 2007 recommending that all forces should, where possible, aspire to audio record briefings for spontaneous and pre-planned firearms operations. This will help to assist post-incident investigations and provide a more robust audit trail of what information was given to officers prior to a firearms operation. It is a matter for individual chief officers to adopt the guidance in their forces.

Police: Witnesses

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officer days have been lost by each police force in England and Wales as a result of officers appearing as witnesses in court. [165972]

Mr. McNulty: We are not able to provide figures for the number of officer days lost by each police force in England and Wales as a result of officers appearing as witnesses in court, because this information is not collected centrally.

Political Parties: Conferences

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the costs were of policing the annual party political conferences in each of the last three years; and how these costs were met. [165649]

Mr. McNulty: Costs of policing annual party conferences fall to the relevant police authority. In recent years the Home Office has provided additional grant to the forces responsible for policing the annual conference of the two main parties. The amount of additional grant paid in the last three years is set out in the following table.

Year of party conference	*Force*	*Amount of Government special grant (£ million)*
Labour		
National autumn conferences		
2005-06	Sussex	3.589
2006-07	Greater Manchester	3.984
2007-08	Dorset	5.320
Conservative		
National autumn conferences		
2005-06	Lancashire	1.400
2006-07	Dorset	2.150
2007-08	Lancashire	1.797

Prostitution: Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women from central and eastern European countries were estimated to be working illegally in the sex industry in Britain in each of the last five years. [165808]

Mr. Coaker: We do not collect this information centrally.

Rape: Drugs

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training in the specific handling of cases of drug rape is available to police forces; and how many forces have taken up such training, broken down by rank of police officer provided with training. [165666]

Mr. Coaker: Drug rape training is addressed in the initial policing learning and development programme (IPLDP) and in the specially trained officer course (STO). These two specific learning programmes are aimed at examining, and dealing with, the impact of drugs and alcohol upon a victim subjected to sexually offending behaviour.

The National Policing Improvement Agency provides national standardised training for delivery by all police forces in the above areas. Statistics on the numbers of officers who take up locally delivered training are not centrally collated.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces are equipped with readily available test kits to secure samples in the event of a complaint of drug rape. [165667]

Mr. Coaker: In the summer of 2007, 38 police forces in England and Wales reported that they were equipped with early evidence kits to secure samples in suspected drug or alcohol facilitated sexual assault cases. The other five forces were actively seeking to implement their use.

Respect Task Force

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total funding allocated to the Respect Task Force was in each year since it was established. [164796]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Respect Task Force received funding of £24.2 million in 2006-07 and £25.6 million in 2007-08.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil servants currently work in, or for, the Respect Task Force; and at what pay grade each is employed. [164806]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

Following the Machinery of Government changes announced earlier this year the Respect Task Force was transferred to the Department for Children Schools and Families. On 5 October a Youth Task Force was announced, incorporating the Respect Task Force.

The headcount of the Youth Task Force is 14 full-time equivalent staff. The taskforce includes a mix of civil servants from several Government Departments for which pay bands vary. The headcount comprises of two senior civil servants, the remainder of staff are at departmental grades.

Security Industry Authority

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to her statement of 13 November, 2007, *Official Report*, columns 531-41, on the Security Industry Authority, if she will publish the findings of the taskforce chaired by the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, the hon. Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker), on 8 October. [166775]

Mr. Coaker: The taskforce is an informal working group intended to oversee the work relating to the right to work checks being carried out by the Security Industry Authority and the Border and Immigration Agency.

The taskforce met for the first time on 8 October. It met again on 14 November, when it reviewed the actions required to ensure completion of the retrospective checks of existing non-EAA licence holders by December 2007, in accordance with the Home Secretary's undertaking to the House.

Terrorism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in terrorist attacks taking place in the UK in each of the last five years. [166491]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 November 2007]*: Available information on persons killed relates to homicides recorded by police in England, Wales and Scotland each year between 2001-02 and 2005-06. Police recorded 52 homicides in 2005-06 where the circumstance was 'attributed to acts of terrorism'. Each of the victims were killed as a result of the London bombings of 7 July 2005. There were no terrorist-related homicides recorded between 2001-02 and 2004-05.

The Official Report in to the 7 July London bombings states that an additional 700 persons were injured in the four attacks. It is not known how many injuries may have been inflicted as a result of terrorist activity in earlier years as details of the individual circumstances of offences are not included on the recorded crime datasets held by the Home Office and Scottish Executive.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children Maintenance

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of cases in each constituency being dealt with by the Child Support Agency in Scotland under the old system which will remain open when the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's rules are introduced. [162789]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 13 November 2007]*: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 22 November 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate his Department has made of the number of cases in each constituency being dealt with by the Child Support Agency in Scotland under the old system which will remain open when the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's rules are introduced. [162789]

At the end of September 2007, the Child Support Agency had 67,900 cases assessed under old rules where the non-resident parent lived in Scotland. This figure covers all cases, including those with a positive assessment as well as those currently with a nil maintenance liability. It also includes those cases where the old rules are being processed on both the old and new computer systems.

It is expected the number of old scheme cases will reduce from around 740,000 to around 300,000 before cases move into the new statutory maintenance service expected to start in 2010-11.

The reason for this is predominantly the age and nature of these cases. It is also expected that a number of clients will wish to leave the statutory maintenance service and make their own arrangements following the removal of compulsion. No separate estimates have been made for Scotland or at a constituency level.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance he has issued to Government departments on the effect of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's report of August 2007 on Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis as it affects his Department's responsibilities. [166951]

Mrs. McGuire: No guidance has been issued. The report of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is about the way chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis is treated within the NHS and has no implications for this Department's responsibilities.

Council Tax Benefit: Post Offices

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of recipients of council tax benefit in Eastbourne constituency who draw it from post offices. [165396]

Mr. Plaskitt: Council tax benefit is awarded as a rebate against council tax liability; payments of the benefit are not routinely made to claimants in a format where encashment is necessary.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Welsh speakers his Department employs. [162900]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not available in the format requested. My Department has adopted a Welsh Language Scheme approved by the Welsh Language Board on 13 July 2004 and is committed to treating the Welsh and English languages on a basis of equality when providing a service to the public in Wales.

We do not collect figures for the number of Welsh-speaking staff in the Department as a whole. Around 400 staff in Wales have voluntarily identified themselves as active Welsh speakers. This figure includes staff employed full-time in our specialist Welsh language units.

Disability Discrimination Act: Mentally Ill

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the number of people who have been unable to file a claim under the six month rule of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 because of mental health problems; and whether he will consider extending the limit to 12 months, where mental health issues are shown to be a reason for the delay. [162042]

Mrs. McGuire: There is no central data held on the number of people who have been unable to file a claim of discrimination under the six month rule of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. My Department has made no assessment of the number of such cases, but I do not consider it necessary to extend the limit to 12 months where mental health issues are shown to be a reason for the delay in making a claim. This is because provisions in Paragraph 6(3) to Schedule 3 of the Act already allow a court to consider a claim under section 25[1] of the Disability Discrimination Act which is out of time if, in all the circumstances of the case, it considers that it is just and equitable to do so.

[1] Section 25 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 concerns enforcement of the provisions:

in Part 3 of the Act, which includes coverage of access to goods, facilities, and services; public authority functions; and premises; and

in sections 57 and 58, which concern the aiding of unlawful acts and the liability of employers and principals

Incapacity Benefit: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Bassetlaw received incapacity benefit in the latest period for which figures are available; how many of these were over 55; and what his Department's target is to reduce the number of incapacity benefit claimants in Bassetlaw. [167267]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Number of incapacity benefit and severe disability allowance claimants in the Bassetlaw parliamentary constituency—May 2007

All Claimants	5,890
Aged 55 and over	2,050

Note:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

There is no specific target for reducing the numbers on incapacity benefits in Bassetlaw. The Government wants to reduce the numbers on incapacity benefits in Great Britain by one million by 2015.

Pension Credit

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many men over the age of 60 and under the age of 65 are claiming pension credit. [162629]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at May 2007 there are 209,290 men aged between 60 and 64 claiming pension credit. Around a further 17,000 men aged between 60 and 64 have partners who claim pension credit on their behalf.

Notes:

1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. The number of men claiming pension credit come from 100 per cent. data.

3. Those men claiming pension credit could be claiming either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

4. The number of men whose partners claim on their behalf comes from five per cent. data which has been adjusted in line with 100 per cent. WPLS data and is therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study and five per cent. samples

Pension Credit: Wales

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many men under the age of 65 resident in Wales voluntarily opted to claim pension credit instead of jobseeker's allowance after attaining the age of 60; [165943]

(2) how many men aged between 60 and 65 resident in Wales claim pension credit. [165944]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* Men aged between 60 and 64 can choose themselves whether they claim either jobseekers allowance or pension credit, providing they meet the qualifying conditions of the relevant benefit.

As at May 2007 there were 12,560 men aged between 60 and 64 claiming pension credit in Wales. Around a further 1,500 men aged between 60 and 64 have partners who claim pension credit on their behalf.

Notes:

1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. The number of men claiming pension credit comes from 100 per cent. data.

3. Those men claiming pension credit could be claiming either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

4. The number of men whose partners claim on their behalf comes from five per cent. data which has been adjusted in line with 100 per cent. WPLS data and is therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study and five per cent. samples

Personal Income

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the range of incomes in *(a)* each decile, *(b)* the top 5 per cent., *(c)* the top 1 per cent., *(d)* the top 0.1 per cent. and *(e)* the top 0.01 per cent. of incomes in the UK population. [162277]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* Information for each decile is shown in the following table.

Household income of individuals in pounds per week equivalised, for each decile, 2005-06

	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
Decile 1	181	132
Decile 2	226	179
Decile 3	269	221
Decile 4	313	263
Decile 5	362	310
Decile 6	416	359
Decile 7	482	420
Decile 8	573	504
Decile 9	734	654

Information on the top 5 per cent. is shown in the following table.

Household income of individuals in pounds per week equivalised, for the top 5 per cent. of the income distribution, 2005-06

	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
Top 5 per cent.	939	842

Notes:

1. Household incomes for individuals in the UK are shown as equivalised pounds in 2005-06 prices. Equivalisation is the process by which household income is adjusted by household size and composition as a proxy for material living standards.
2. The first table shows the maximum income per week in each decile group. This is in contrast to DWP's National Statistics' series Households Below Average Income where each decile of the income distribution is presented using the median of that decile.
3. The second table presents the household income of the 95th percentile of the income distribution.
4. All estimates are subject to sampling error.

Source:

Family Resources Survey.

Information on the top 1 per cent., top 0.1 per cent. and top 0.01 per cent. is not available from the Family Resources Survey due to small sample sizes.

Poverty: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Wales lived in poverty in each year since 1997. [162896]

Caroline Flint: The information is in the following table.

Number of individuals living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income in Wales

	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
1994-95 to 1996-97	630,000	770,000
1995-96 to 1997-98	660,000	780,000
1996-97 to 1998-99	650,000	760,000
1997-98 to 1999-2000	650,000	740,000
1998-99 to 2000-01	630,000	720,000
1999-2000 to 2001-02	620,000	720,000
2000-01 to 2002-03	610,000	700,000
2001-02 to 2003-04	620,000	690,000
2002-03 to 2004-05	600,000	650,000
2003-04 to 2005-06	600,000	640,000

Notes:

1. The preferred measure of low income is by using a threshold of 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income. This is an internationally recognised measure.
2. Numbers are presented using a three-year moving average, as single-year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year-on-year changes. Hence, figures are not consistent with any previously published single-year estimates. In cases such as a change in trend, moving averages will show less variation than single-year estimates.
3. Table shows numbers to the nearest 10,000.
4. On both the BHC and AHC bases, the income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

Source:

Family Resources Survey.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is for the amount of unclaimed means-tested benefits in 2006-07. [165312]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of the amount of unclaimed means-tested benefits in 2006-07 are not available.

The latest estimates relate to 2005-06. These estimates cover the take-up of the main income-related benefits—pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and income-based jobseeker's allowance—and are available in the DWP publication series entitled "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2005-06". Copies of the latest publication, together with past reports, can be found in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps he is taking to implement the recommendations of the clinical guidelines of August 2007 by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on Chronic Fatigue/Syndrome Myalgic Encephalomyelitis in relation to benefits applicants; [166949]

(2) if he will review the questionnaire and medical examination process established by his Department for benefits applicants with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis in light of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's report of August 2007. [166950]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 544w.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the Jobcentre Plus questionnaire Incapacity for Work (Form JB65) for those with Chronic Fatigue/Syndrome Myalgic Encephalomyelitis in light of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's report of August 2007. [166952]

Mrs. McGuire: The report of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is about the way chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis is treated within the NHS. The Department recognises chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis as a real and potentially very disabling condition. Each person claiming benefit is assessed on the basis of the way the condition affects them as an individual.

Jobcentre Plus has a number of forms for customers who claim Incapacity Benefit irrespective of their illness and/or their disability. Although there are no plans to review these forms as result of the NICE report, all forms/letters are reviewed annually.

Unemployment Benefits: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of people in Eastbourne receive out-of-work benefits. [165397]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Numbers of working-age claimants of out-of-work benefits, and the proportion of the working age population this represents, in the Eastbourne parliamentary constituency, as at May 2007

	Number	*Proportion (percentage)*
Total claiming out of work benefits	7,270	13.8
Unemployed	1,400	2.7
Incapacity benefits	4,380	8.3
Income support—lone parents	1,200	2.3
Other (IS others and PC)	290	0.5

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
3. Figures are not seasonally adjusted.
4. Unemployed category is taken from the JSA claimant count rates and proportions data published by ONS. Time series data are available from www.nomisweb.co.uk this 100 per cent. series is the most reliable and up-to-date source for claimant unemployment below regional level.
5. This table includes the main out-of-work client group categories, with the exception of carers who are not subject to activation policies in the same way as other groups.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPL; Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (including clerically held cases); and ONS, Population Estimates Unit.

Unemployment: Disadvantaged

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into the reasons for worklessness among social tenants. [162675]

Caroline Flint: DWP provided a significant amount of analysis for Professor John Hills, who carried out an assessment of the role of social housing in the 21 century.

The Department has commissioned the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research at Sheffield Hallam university to undertake research into the links between social housing and worklessness. The research is expected to report towards the end of this year.

The Department is also currently carrying out analysis to quantify how much worklessness in the social rented sector is explained by characteristics of social tenants.

Unemployment: Prisoners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into worklessness among ex-prisoners; and what steps he has taken to promote the employment of ex-prisoners. [162673]

Caroline Flint: DWP has commissioned three studies relating to worklessness and ex-prisoners.

Research report 464 "progress2work and progress2work-LinkUP: an exploratory study into evaluation possibilities" was published on 30 October 2007. A copy of this report is available in the Library.

A qualitative study following up on 40 prisoners for six months after leaving prison is due to be published in spring 2008. This will examine how support services can best be delivered to encourage employment outcomes and will explore the barriers faced by ex-prisoners as they make the transition from prison into the community.

A Joint Pilots Baseline Study was commissioned in July 2007 and is due to report in 2009. This is an evaluative study of a number of innovative pilots focusing on hard-to-help individuals, particularly ex-prisoners. These include Job Developer Pilots (EXit2Work) and the Green Paper on Reducing Re-offending Through Skills and Employment Test Bed regions.

Activities supporting the employment of ex-prisoners include Jobcentre Plus staff working in prisons to facilitate job retention and search, and the pre-booking of interviews with Jobcentre Plus on release. Additional support is available through the contracted-out programme progress2work and progress2work-LinkUP, whose clients are ex-prisoners, drug addicts and the homeless. Ex-prisoners are also supported by mainstream services, and have early access to the new deals.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Economic Situation

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his estimate is of *(a)* economic growth, *(b)* employment levels and *(c)* average wages in Afghanistan; what such figures were in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [166058]

Mr. Malik: The UK Government do not make their own formal assessment of economic growth, employment levels and average wages in Afghanistan, but use data from surveys and analysis carried out by the Government of Afghanistan and international agencies. Because data quality on Afghanistan is poor, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of each year since 2001.

The Afghan economy has grown by between 40 per cent. and 70 per cent. since 2002, driven primarily by high aid inflows and the opium economy. These high growth rates are a result of the economy's low starting base and are expected to drop to around 7 per cent. over the next five years.

According to UN estimates, the current overall unemployment rate in Afghanistan is around 32 per cent. The rate for marginalized groups such as women and the disabled is much higher.

Annual labour market data quality in Afghanistan is very poor but improving. The average wage for an Afghan worker is currently around $375 a year, based on GDP and population figures in the UNDP Human Development Report 2007.

Afghanistan: Education

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of children in *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* tertiary education in Afghanistan in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [166062]

Mr. Malik: The UK Government use data on education from surveys and analysis carried out by the Government of Afghanistan and international agencies. Because data quality on Afghanistan is so poor, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of each year since 2001.

According to the latest analysis by the Ministries of Education and Higher Education, 5.4 million children are in primary and secondary education in 2007, a third of these girls. Attendance is lower in rural areas compared to urban areas. This compares with an estimated 1 million children in primary and secondary school in 2001, of whom very few were girls, as they were officially denied access to education under the Taliban.

There are currently 52,000 students in tertiary education in 2007. Current demand for higher education is four times the available supply of places and will only be met with large increases in the number of lecturers.

Afghanistan: Electricity Generation

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his assessment is of the availability of supply of *(a)* electricity and *(b)* water in Afghanistan; what assessment he has made of such availability in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [166054]

Mr. Malik: The UK Government have not made any formal assessments of their own of the availability of supply of electricity and water in Afghanistan. Because data quality on Afghanistan is so poor, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of each year since 2001.

The Government of Afghanistan carried out a National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA) in 2005 which provided information on a wide range of socio-economic indicators. The report found that:

> Just 31 per cent. of Afghan households have access to safe drinking water. Kuchi (nomad) households have the lowest access to safe drinking water at 16 per cent., while rural households have 26 per cent. access and urban households have 64 per cent. access.
>
> Just 23 per cent. of Afghan households have access to any type of electrical power at some time during the year. Kuchi households have just 4 per cent. access, while rural households have 13 per cent. access, and urban households have 74 per cent. access.

A further NRVA is being carried out this year, with financial support from DFID. The results should be available by the end of 2008.

Afghanistan: Food

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his assessment is of *(a)* food prices and *(b)* levels of food poverty in Afghanistan; what assessment he has made of such (i) prices and (ii) levels in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [166056]

Mr. Malik: The UK Government do not make their own assessment of food prices and levels of food poverty in Afghanistan, but use data from surveys and analysis carried out by the Government of Afghanistan and international agencies. Because data quality on Afghanistan is poor, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of each year since 2001.

Food price inflation has stayed stable at an average of 8 per cent. per year since 2003. However these prices are likely to increase in the future due to significant increases in international food prices.

Food poverty in 2005, as measured by the number of people consuming less than 2,100 calories a day, was 30 per cent. The figure for rural and urban Afghanistan is almost the same. There is no reliable time series, but according to the United Nations, during 2001-04 the proportion of people suffering food poverty in rural areas remained relatively constant. This suggests that the majority of Afghans manage to maintain a minimum level of calorie intake despite year-to-year rainfall fluctuations. However millions are still chronically or seasonally food insecure.

Afghanistan: Life Expectancy

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of levels of *(a)* infant mortality, *(b)* maternal mortality and *(c)* life expectancy in Afghanistan in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [166060]

Mr. Malik: The UK Government does not make its own assessment of mortality and life expectancy in Afghanistan, but uses data from surveys and analysis carried out by the Government of Afghanistan and international agencies. Because data quality on Afghanistan is poor, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of each year since 2001.

The Afghanistan human development report 2007, produced by the UNDP together with the University of Kabul, currently estimates the infant mortality rate in 2007 to be 135 deaths out of every 1,000 births. This compares to a health survey carried out in 2006 by the Government of Afghanistan with John Hopkins University which estimated the infant mortality rate to have been 165 deaths per 1,000 births in 2000.

The Afghanistan human development report 2007 estimates the maternal mortality rate to be 1,600 deaths per 100,000 births in 2007.

The Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007 estimates life expectancy in Afghanistan to be 43 years in 2007, and according to estimates by the UN and the Government of Afghanistan it was 47 years in 2005 and 43 years in 2001.

Bangladesh: Storms

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to contribute to the recovery efforts in Bangladesh following the recent cyclone. [167417]

Mr. Malik: The UK Government have announced a contribution of £2.5 million for immediate cyclone relief efforts, channelled through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to provide food, safe water, medical treatment and housing repairs. In addition, we will consider our response to additional needs identified once damage and needs assessments have been carried out by the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations (UN).

Departmental Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how many reports have been made to his Department's nominated officers under paragraph 16 of the revised Civil Service Code since its publication on 6 June 2006; [162422]

(2) how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been reported to his Department by departmental staff since 6 June 2006; [162423]

(3) when his Department's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised Civil Service Code. [162424]

Mr. Malik: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Cabinet Office Parliamentary Secretary and Minister for the East Midlands on 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 596-97W.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last five years. [163698]

Mr. Malik: DFID has been taking action over the past few years to actively manage out cases where staff had been on long term sick leave for over 12 months. Early intervention has allowed formal disciplinary action to be avoided and there have been no disciplinary cases related to a poor sick record during the period. Details are as follows:

	Reason for dismissal	*Number of cases*
2003	Ill health retirement	3
2004	—	0
2005	Ill health retirement	3
2006	Inefficiency—health related	5
2007	Ill health retirement	2

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of the World Trade Organisation's Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights agreement on developing countries who wish to manufacture generic HIV/AIDS drugs. [165904]

Mr. Thomas: There has been no formal assessment of this issue by the Government, but in 2004 the Department for International Development (DFID) funded seven independent studies that, inter alia, seek to assess the impact of the Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) on developing countries who wish to manufacture generic HIV/AIDS drugs. These are summarised in a 2004 publication by the DFID Health Systems Resource Centre: "Access to medicines in under-served markets: what are the implications of changes in intellectual property rights, trade and drug registration policy?"

This is available at:

http://www.dfidhealthrc.org/publications/atm/DFID_synthesis_aw.pdf.

These studies suggest that local production, which may be facilitated by TRIPS flexibilities, can contribute to better access and availability, but only if countries have the skills, infrastructure and regulatory capacity to produce and deliver quality medicines at lower prices than the brand-name producer.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which developing countries have been able to use Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights for domestic production of generic HIV/AIDS drugs. [165905]

Mr. Thomas: To the best of our knowledge, the following countries have utilised, as permitted under the Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights, government use or compulsory licensing provisions for the production of generic versions of HIV/AIDS drugs: Brazil, Indonesia, Thailand and Zimbabwe.

Guatemala: Children

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much UK aid has been given to the Government of Guatemala for projects aimed at improving the welfare of Guatemalan street children: [163911]

(2) what representations he has made to the Government of Guatemala on the welfare of Guatemalan street children. [163910]

Mr. Thomas: The British embassy in Guatemala City has supported many local NGO projects on child rights including a sustainable programme for police officers in the city centre. This aims to improve officers' dealings with street children, ensure the inclusion of child rights in the Police Academy training curriculum and encourage efforts to bring child abusers to justice.

DFID also provides core funding to UNICEF who run programmes throughout Central America aimed at improving children's access to health and education. Street children have also benefited from UNICEF's programmes in the region on HIV and AIDS and to eliminate child labour and violence against children.

India and Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much UK development aid was given to *(a)* India and *(b)* Pakistan in each year since 2000; [164408]

(2) how much aid the UK Government gave to Pakistan in each year since 2000. [165453]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details of the UK's bilateral assistance and imputed multilateral assistance to India and Pakistan since 2000 are laid out in the following tables.

Table 1: UK total bilateral gross public expenditure on development 2002-03 to 2006-07

£000

	India	Pakistan
2000-01	126,700	15,890
2001-02	198,576	44,838
2002-03	182,708	46,852
2003-04	242,736	66,299
2004-05	267,510	55,277
2005-06	270,065	97,688
2006-07	293,706	118,150

Table 2: Imputed UK share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) 2001-05

£000

	India	Pakistan
2000	41,177	14,192
2001	67,697	63,878
2002	17,236	28,343
2003	63,004	34,391
2004	27,271	27,729
2005	63,482	43,968

Iraq: Economic Situation

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his estimate is of *(a)* economic growth, *(b)* employment levels and *(c)* average wages in Iraq; what such figures were in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [166057]

Mr. Malik: The most recent statistics that we have seen on the Iraqi economy are as follows:

	Economic growth (Percentage)	Employment levels (Percentage)	Hourly wages (Iraqi Dinar)
2003	-41.5	28	n/a
2004	46.5	18.4	833
2005	3.7	n/a	n/a
2006	3	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available.

Sources:

World Bank.

UNDP.

World Food Programme (WFP).

Central Office of Statistics and Information Technology (Government of Iraq).

Iraq: Education

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of children in *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* tertiary education in Iraq in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [166061]

Mr. Malik: The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) estimate the numbers of children in education in Iraq as follows:

	Total enrolment in primary	Total enrolment in secondary	Total enrolment in tertiary, full and part- time
2001	4,031,346	1,257,106	n/a
2002	4,135,761	[1]1,294,395	[1]317,993
2003	4,280,602	1,477,616	n/a
2004	4,334,609	1,706,234	412,545
2005	[1]4,430,267	[1]1,751,164	1424,908
2006	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available
[1] UIS estimation

Iraq: Electricity Generation

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his assessment is of the availability of supply of *(a)* electricity and *(b)* water in Iraq; what assessment he has made of such availability in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [166053]

Mr. Malik: The US Iraq Reconstruction Management Office (IRMO) estimate that electricity generation since November 2006 has fluctuated between 3,500 megawatts (MW) and 4,975 MW. The average for 2006 was 4,400 MW, just above the pre-2003 level.

Although 5,000 MW have been added to the national grid since 2003, electricity generation in Iraq is not meeting demand. This is due to several reasons: old and dilapidated infrastructure; a result of years of under-investment and mismanagement; shortage of fuel supplies; and sabotage of key facilities. Furthermore, demand has increased considerably to over 9,000 MW, with the influx of electrical goods such as refrigerators, televisions and air conditioning units.

The most recent reliable data available for water supplies in Iraq comes from the Iraq living conditions survey carried out in 2004 by the Iraqi Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation and the United Nations Development programme. This survey can be found at:

http://www.iq.undp.org/ILCS/overview.htm.

The 2004 UN survey found that in urban areas, 99 per cent. of households have access to safe drinking water (but for 33 per cent. the supply is unreliable). In rural areas, 65 per cent. of households-have access to safe drinking water (but for 22 per cent. the supply is unreliable). Since 2003, donors (including DFID) have worked hard to restore supplies. As a result, IRMO estimates that an additional 5.4 million Iraqis have improved access to drinking water.

Iraq: Food

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his assessment is of *(a)* food prices and *(b)* levels of food poverty in Iraq; what assessment he has made of such (i) prices and (ii) levels in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [166055]

Mr. Malik: The most reliable data we have is a survey conducted in 2005 by the World Food programme (WFP) and Government of Iraq. The survey found that four million people in Iraq are considered food insecure and in need of food assistance—this equals 15 per cent. of the population. The survey found that a further 8.3 million people would be rendered food insecure if they were not provided food rations through the public distribution system (PDS).

The only information we have on food prices are the Government of Iraq's food inflation figures (i.e. the rate at which food prices are increasing).

End of year	Food inflation (Percentage)
2004	2
2005	26
2006	36
2007[1]	9

[1]September 2007 inflation rate (the latest available).
Source:
Central Office of Statistics and Information Technology (Government of Iraq)

Iraq: Life Expectancy

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of levels of *(a)* infant mortality, *(b)* maternal mortality and *(c)* life expectancy in Iraq; what such levels were in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [166059]

Mr. Malik: According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Iraq remains on the list of the 60 countries in the world with the highest infant, under-five and maternal mortality rates. The latest joint UNICEF—Government of Iraq Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey was published in March 2006. It estimated an infant mortality rate at 35 per 1,000 live births. The under-five mortality rate was estimated at 41 per 1,000 live births. According to a 2004 Iraq Living Conditions Survey (ILCS), the maternal mortality rate was 192 per 100,000 live births. There are no fully reliable or up-to-date figures on life expectancy in Iraq.

The Government of Iraq has primary responsibility for ensuring the welfare of its own citizens, including children. However, the UN, led by UNICEF, continues to support the Iraqi Government to improve nutrition rates in Iraq through infant feeding campaigns, the provision of medical supplies and other support. DFID is supporting humanitarian agencies providing emergency relief, including food assistance, to children and other vulnerable groups. Since 2003, DFID has committed over £130 million in humanitarian assistance, of which £15 million has been for this year alone.

Sustainable Cocoa Chain Programme

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) if he will make it his policy to facilitate a sustainable cocoa chain programme to eradicate child trafficking in the global cocoa industry; [165927]

(2) if he will make it his policy to provide financial support to the sustainable cocoa chain programme announced by Cargill and others on 10 October 2007. [165973]

Mr. Thomas: The UK is committed to the development of fair and ethical supply chains in all sectors. We are supporting initiatives to increase the

transparency of the supply chain and reduce the risk of child labour and trafficking. This includes promotion of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, which outline that the Government expect UK companies to contribute to the effective abolition of child labour. We also support responsible business through the work of the Ethical Trading Initiative and the Fairtrade Foundation.

The Department for International Development (DFID) does not and has not been asked to provide financial support to the new programme announced by Cargill last month. We welcome initiatives from the private sector to support sustainable supply chains in cocoa and other sectors. We encourage co-ordination and co-operation between all those working on this issue.

Terrorism

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 667-86, on national security, on what projects his Department's share of the £400 million allocated to tackle radicalisation and promote understanding overseas will be spent; and if he will make a statement. [165837]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Actions DFID undertakes as part of its mandate to reduce poverty also address the causes of radicalisation. Where appropriate, DFID will support:

- Increased political participation, including strengthening civil society as a source of political accountability and as a means of representing excluded groups.
- Improvements in the quality of education in both formal and non-formal systems.
- More responsive government and the provision of public services in previously neglected areas.
- High quality policing and access to justice for ordinary people.
- A strengthened voice for women.
- Independent media that can educate, inform and improve the quality of public debate.

In addition, DFID will introduce schemes to promote understanding of international poverty issues and seek to make development a common concern for diverse British communities.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Opinion Leader Research

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women what contracts relating to its policies on women and equalities the Government have granted to Opinion Leader Research since 1997; and what *(a)* the title and purpose of the project, *(b)* the cost to the public purse and *(c)* the dates at which (i) the project was put to tender, (ii) the project was awarded to Opinion Leader Research, (iii) the project was carried out, (iv) the project was completed and (v) the project's findings were presented to Government in each instance. [165039]

Ms Harman: On 21 September 2005, a contract was awarded to Opinion Leader Research to carry out a social research project, "Today's Woman: A picture of women in Britain today", to explore the aspirations and concerns facing women in the UK. This award was based on expertise and value for money. The cost of the research came to £76,836.51.

The project had been put to competitive tender in August 2005 and four organisations had submitted proposals.

The research was conducted between October 2005 and January 2006, and analysis completed in June 2006. The findings were presented to Government and incorporated into a report, "Today's Woman: Your say in the Future", published in June 2007.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will take steps to ensure that English wine is served exclusively or at the request of guests at meals, parties and receptions hosted by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [164285]

Edward Miliband: The Government are committed to increase opportunities for small and local suppliers to tender for contracts, thus increasing competition and securing better value for money. The Cabinet Office ensures that in house catering providers include locally produced goods as part of their menus.

Departmental ICT

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which manufacturers' software is used in his Department. [167217]

Gillian Merron: The operating system and office support software used on the corporate Cabinet Office IT network is supplied by Microsoft. This is complemented by products from other software suppliers such as Citrix, Adobe and Macromedia as business needs dictate.

Departmental Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people aged *(a)* 30 to 39, *(b)* 40 to 49, *(c)* 50 to 59 and *(d)* 60 to 69 years have (i) applied for jobs, (ii) received interviews and (iii) gained (A) temporary and (B) permanent jobs in the Cabinet Office in 2007. [165114]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not ask for information on age or date of birth during the application process and it is not, therefore, seen by anyone involved in the decisions about whether to interview or appoint. It is, however, collected separately from applicants on the equality monitoring form.

Since January 2007, the Cabinet Office has conducted 45 external recruitment competitions. The following table provides the data on age groups for applicants and candidates invited to interview, using equality monitoring data collected for external recruitment exercises since January 2007:

Age category	Applied	Invited to interview
17-30	480	32
30-39	375	38
40-49	297	28
50-59	145	12
60-69	17	0
Information not provided	475	21
Grand total	1,789	131

The following table provides information on all external appointees for that period and age category:

Age category	Permanent	Temporary/fixed-term appointment
30-39	10	5
40-49	5	1
50-59	3	0
60-69	0	0
Other	27	13
Grand total	45	19

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance he has issued on the relationship between special advisers and civil servants. [164529]

Edward Miliband: The "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers" sets out the responsibilities and standards of conduct expected of special advisers, including relations with the permanent civil service. Copies of the Code of Conduct are in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the office costs for his Department's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164932]

Edward Miliband: One civil servant supports the special advisers in my office, providing administrative support of a non-political nature in accordance with the "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers".

Individual civil servants' salary details are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individual concerned. Office costs will be accounted for in the 2007-08 Cabinet Office Annual Resource Accounts.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what entertainment or hospitality members of his Department's management board received in each of the last three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [164740]

Edward Miliband: Paragraph 4.3.5 of the "Civil Service Management Code" sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list of hospitality received by members of departmental boards. The first list for 2007 will be published as soon as it is ready after the end of the current calendar year.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Cabinet Office keeps a record of sick days taken by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in (i) his and (ii) other Departments. [164971]

Edward Miliband: Special advisers are temporary civil servants. The rules on sickness absence for civil servants are set out in the Civil Service Management Code, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House and online at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/codes/csmc/index.asp.

Guidance on arrangements during ministerial absences from their Departments is set out in the Ministerial Code, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

European Union

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many EU flags are *(a)* held and *(b)* owned by his Department and its agencies. [164863]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office holds and owns two EU flags.

Influenza

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he plans to issue guidance on the stock of home supplies over and above that which is already available contained in the Planning for Emergencies publication as a consequence of Exercise Winter Willow; and if he will make a statement. [164888]

Gillian Merron: The advice on stocking home supplies contained in the Government's Planning for Emergencies guidance is being reviewed by an officials working group considering the specific issues relating to an influenza pandemic, if necessary, the guidance will be updated accordingly.

Media Monitoring Reports

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library copies of the media monitoring reports produced for the Strategy Unit between the period 21 October to 26 October. [164309]

Edward Miliband: I have placed copies of the relevant reports in the Libraries of the House.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Internet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many staff are employed to translate material on the No. 10 Downing Street website; [164848]

(2) how much has been spent translating material on the No. 10 Downing Street website since 1 January 2007, including the cost of staff time. [164849]

The Prime Minister: Translation services are provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the costs for which are met from existing budgets.

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Prime Minister what role is being played by officials in his Policy Unit in the review of the academies programme; and if he will make a statement. [165163]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Prime Minister which Minister occupies the official ministerial residence in Admiralty House previously occupied by the right hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull. [165878]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1135W.

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Prime Minister what assets of his Office are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [164235]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1069-70W.

Departmental Ministerial Duties

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister who would *(a)* chair Cabinet meetings and *(b)* assume his other Prime Ministerial responsibilities in the event of his sudden incapacity. [166774]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Wellingborough (Mr. Bone) on 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2102W.

Departmental Opinion Polls

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what opinion polls No. 10 Downing street has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164941]

The Prime Minister: None.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister who was responsible for the inclusion of the phrase British jobs for British workers in his speech of 24 September. [164785]

The Prime Minister: This speech is a matter of public record. I am responsible for the content of my speeches.

Iraq Conflict

Harry Cohen: To ask the Prime Minister what was the contribution to the Joint Intelligence Committee's assessments in the build up to the war on Iraq of the CIA's liaison officer in London. [164557]

The Prime Minister: These matters have been examined during the course of the Butler Review and other inquiries, and covered during debates and statements on Iraq and in briefings by my predecessor's official spokesman. All relevant information has been placed in the public domain in as far as that could be done without prejudicing national security.

Jordan: Whaling

Tom Brake: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he had with King Abdullah of Jordan on 7 November about Jordan's possible membership of the International Whaling Commission. [164003]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issues with King Abdullah II during his recent visit, including education and the Middle East. I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs my hon. Friend the Member for Chatham and Aylesford (Jonathan Shaw) to my hon. Friend the Member for Calder Valley (Chris McCafferty) on 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 521W.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what the office costs for No. 10 Downing street's special advisers for 2007-08 are expected to be, including costs of support staff; and how many full-time equivalent civil servants work in support of such special advisers. [164938]

The Prime Minister: Figures for the financial year 2007-08 will be published in the usual way after the end of the financial year.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the list of special advisers following his appointment. [164077]

Mr. Allen: To ask the Prime Minister (1) which special advisers work for the Government; which Minister was responsible for appointing each; and what the pay band of each is; [167089]

(2) how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* staff are employed in each section of his Office. [167091]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member and my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement I made today.

Ministers: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the cost of paying additional *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension contributions for the additional Ministers he has employed since 27 June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [164172]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1070W.

Speeches

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how many full-time equivalents work on speech-writing in his Office. [164537]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 625W.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Animal Welfare: Prosecutions

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many criminal charges of animal cruelty were brought in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [164392]

Paul Goggins: The number of people charged with offences relating to animal cruelty is not collected centrally; however, the number of people prosecuted for such offences is collected and is set out in the following table.

Data cover the calendar years 2001 to 2005 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Number prosecuted for cruelty to animals by offence 2001-05

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Owner permitting cruelty to animal	1	0	4	2	0
Cruelty to animals	4	2	13	9	12
Permitting cruelty to animals	0	0	2	0	2
Causing unnecessary suffering to animals	13	6	11	9	10
Causing unnecessary suffering to livestock	0	1	0	0	0
Abandoning animal	1	0	1	0	3
Unlawful animal fighting	0	0	0	0	1
Total	19	9	31	20	28

Drugs: Custodial Treatment

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of those convicted for supplying illegal drugs in Northern Ireland were given a custodial sentence in each of the last 10 years. [164393]

Paul Goggins: The following table gives the number convicted of supplying illegal drugs and the number and percentage of those convicted who were sentenced to immediate custody.

Data cover the calendar years 1996 to 2005 (the latest available years) and are collated on the principal offence rule; therefore only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Number convicted of supplying illegal drugs[1] and the number and percentage of those convicted who were sentenced to immediate custody 1996-2005

	Number convicted	Number sentenced to immediate custody	Percentage sentenced to immediate custody
1996	69	37	54
1997	50	33	66
1998	22	5	23
1999	25	14	56
2000	35	21	60
2001	19	9	47
2002	9	5	56
2003	16	10	63
2004	24	6	25
2005	15	4	27

[1] Includes supplying and being concerned in supply/offering to supply a controlled drug and excludes possession with intent to supply

JUSTICE

Criminal Cases Review Commission: Finance

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what funding the Criminal Cases Review Commission has received from the Government in each year since its establishment; [167268]

(2) how many staff the Criminal Cases Review Commission employed in each year since its establishment; [167270]

(3) how many cases were referred to the Criminal Cases Review Commission in each year since its establishment. [167271]

Maria Eagle: The data requested are given in the following table.

	Number of staff[1]	Applications[2]	Grant in aid including capital[3] (£)
1997-98	47	1103	4,303,977
1998-99	57	1037	4,517,134
1999-2000	68	777	5,530,000
2000-01	88	800	5,415,000
2001-02	96	834	6,525,000
2002-03	91	932	7,000,000
2003-04	92	885	7,800,000
2004-05	95	989	5,750,000
2005-06	97	1011	6,834,628
2006-07	94	1051	6,744,000

[1] The staff in post figures are the numbers in post at the year end and do not include the Commissioners.
[2] The applications received have been adjusted for refused applications which were omitted from CCRC's published data in 2005-06 and part of the immediately preceding and subsequent years. 279 cases were transferred from the Home Office.
[3] The amounts shown are for grant in aid and capital (cash or near cash). This is not the total resource budget which will include non-cash costs such as depreciation and the cost of capital. The low figure for 2004-05 was due to the requirement for the CCRC to use reserves of grant in aid of around 1m which it had been holding against Treasury guidelines.

Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department plans to move any of its offices to Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. [166562]

Maria Eagle: Neither the Ministry of Justice nor any of its arms length bodies have plans to move offices to the Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency.

Departmental Public Participation

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what opinion research his Department has undertaken on the proposals in the White Paper, The Governance of Britain. [166555]

Mr. Wills: My Department has undertaken no opinion research on the proposals in the Governance of Britain Green Paper.

The Government will seek to engage all the people of this country in a debate about the future of the British constitution.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish his Department's autumn performance report. [164876]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice autumn performance report is expected to be published on 6 December 2007.

Miscarriages of Justice: Compensation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much compensation was paid to those who experienced miscarriages of justice in each year since 1992. [167269]

Maria Eagle: Listed in the following table is the combined total compensation paid under the discretionary and statutory miscarriage of justice compensation schemes since 1999-2000, the earliest year for which data is available.

	£ million
1999-2000	5.65
2000-01	8.05
2001-02	6.17
2002-03	8.12
2003-04	6.25
2004-05	6.45
2005-06	8.27
2006-07	12.87

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many registered vehicle owners were prosecuted for failing to comply with statutory off-road notification declarations in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07. [165849]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The number of registered vehicle owners who were prosecuted for failing to comply with statutory off-road notification declarations is:

	County court claims	*Magistrates court cases*
2003-04	—	1,660
2004-05	107,100	777
2005-06	133,254	—
2006-07	107,550	—

Prosecution procedures for statutory off-road notifications changed in 2004 from a criminal to a civil process.

Prisoners: Drugs

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 293-4W, on prisoners: drugs, which research is referred to; and what the *(a)* title, *(b)* author and *(c)* date of publication is of each piece of research. [167412]

Mr. Hanson: Further to the answer of 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 293-4W, the research sources are as follows:

Information quoted:

'Research evidence suggests that about 1 in 5 men and fewer than 1 in 10 women, who had used at least one of six drugs (cannabis, heroin, illicit methadone, amphetamine, crack and cocaine) reported first using one of them in prison'.

Source:

(a) 'Substance misuse among prisoners in England and Wales: Further analysis of data from the ONS survey of psychiatric morbidity among prisoners in England and Wales carried out in 1997 on behalf of the Department of Health.'

(b) Nicola Singleton, Michael Farrell, Howard Meltzer

(c) 1999

Information quoted:

'Research also shows that the level of drug misuse falls dramatically compared with use prior to imprisonment'.

Source:

(a) "Changing levels of drug use before, during and after imprisonment" in 'Prisoners' drug use and treatment: seven research studies' (Home Office Research Study 267) Malcolm Ramsey (ed)

(b) Tony Bullock

(c) July 2003

Prisons: Finance

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what additional funding has been allocated to meet the *(a)* capital and *(b)* running costs of (i) the 8,000 new prison places announced by the former Home Secretary and (ii) the further 1,500 prison places announced by the former Lord Chancellor. [166556]

Mr. Hanson: Estimated capital costs for the 8,000 place programme are around £1.5 billion and estimated annual running costs are expected to be around £0.35 billion once the programme is completed. No additional funding for this programme is, at present, required. Costs will be met by using existing resources and new funds from the Treasury.

Funding has been confirmed for the first 500 of the additional 1,500 places announced in June this year. Decisions on the remaining 1,000 places will be made after Lord Carter has completed his review on the supply and demand of prison places.

Young Offender Institutions: Admissions

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* receptions to and *(b)* releases from young offender institutions took place in the last 12 months. [166662]

Mr. Hanson: Young Offender Institutions accommodate sentenced prisoners aged from 15 to 21. During 2005, a total of 17,819 sentenced young offenders were received into prison establishments in England and Wales, including 5,175 aged under 18. These figures can be found in table 7.6 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005 a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library and on the Home Office website: www.homeoffice.gov.uk. The corresponding figures for 2006 will be published later this year.

We do not currently have consistent data to compare releases with receptions but expect to have reliable data for 2007 in early 2008.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Youth Justice Board

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the Youth Justice Board has decided not to extend the contract with Gladstone House Secure Care Home in Liverpool. [167055]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Youth Justice Board currently contracts with Liverpool county council for the provision of 16 places at Gladstone House secure children's home. The contract expires on 31 March 2008. Liverpool county council approached the board in September with a request that the contract be extended, at increased prices, and that the board should contract for two extra places. The council's proposal would have involved the board in expenditure of an additional £1 million a year and been at a higher rate than other secure provision in the North West. After careful consideration the Youth Justice Board decided that this would not be the most efficient and effective use of its resources.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Higher Education: Age Participation Rates

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when the Government expects to meet its 50 per cent. participation rate target in university education for young people aged 18 to 30 years. [166860]

Bill Rammell: Our long-term vision is that the UK should be a world leader on skills, in the upper quartile of OECD rankings by 2020, meeting the recommendations of the Leitch review. Consistent with that vision, we have set a long term primary target to increase the proportion of the work force with higher level skills from under 30 per cent. now to over 40 per cent. by 2020 and as a contribution towards that goal a supporting target to increase participation in higher education towards 50 per cent. of those aged 18-30 with growth of at least a percentage point every two years to the academic year 2010-11. The precise date on which we reach these targets will depend on the outcome of future spending reviews and on continuing to increase demand for higher education among people of all ages and backgrounds who would benefit from entering higher education. Our policies will therefore continue to increase and widen participation

Higher Education: Mature Students

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time mature students withdrew from their higher education course in each year since 2001. [162119]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The information available on non-continuation of mature higher education students is shown in tables 1 and 2. The figures are taken from the Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Table 1 shows the proportion of UK-domiciled mature full-time first degree entrants to higher education institutions in England, who do not continue in higher education after their first year. Table 2 shows the proportion of UK-domiciled mature full-time other undergraduate entrants to higher education institutions in England who do not continue in higher education after their first year.

Table 1: Percentage of UK-domiciled mature full-time first degree entrants to English higher education institutions not continuing in higher education after their first year

Academic year	*Percentage*
2001/02	14.8
2002/03	15.1
2003/04	15.4
2004/05	14.0

Source:
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA

Table 2: Percentage of mature full-time other undergraduate entrants to English higher education institutions not continuing in higher education after their first year

Academic year	Percentage
2001/02	15.8
2002/03	14.5
2003/04	14.3
2004/05	14.8

Source:
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA

Figures for 2005/06 will become available in 2008.

HESA do not publish figures on the percentage of part-time students not continuing in higher education after their first year.

Mentally Ill: Employment

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will continue Learning and Skills Council funding of charities which assist people who suffer from mental health problems to return to work, with particular reference to InterAct in Chelmsford. [162918]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 14 November 2007]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has just issued the Learning and Skills Council with its Grant Letter 2008-09, and a copy has been placed in the House Libraries. However, the funding of specific organisations providing learning opportunities for post-16 learners is an operational matter for the LSC as it determines the level of funding required at local level to deliver their key priorities and targets. The LSC will continue funding of any organisation (whether they are charitable or not) which can assist people who suffer from mental health problems to return to work through learning and skills provision, where it is clear that the organisation can deliver the quality and type of provision to meet the requirements of the LSC in ensuring the very best for those learners, and where this type of work has been identified as a priority for funding.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Enterprise Initiatives: North-East

11. **Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of impediments to enterprise in the north-east. [166792]

Mr. Thomas: Specific responsibility for economic development and increasing enterprise in the North East of England falls to Regional Development Agency One North East (ONE) which has commissioned a wide range of research to provide the evidence base to help focus their regional economic strategy.

National Minimum Wage

12. **Colin Burgon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of employees who will be affected by the recent increase in the national minimum wage; and if he will make a statement. [166793]

Mr. McFadden: Around one million people stand to benefit from the October 2007 uprating, nearly two thirds of them women.

15. **Sarah McCarthy-Fry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with HM Treasury on penalties for employers who fail to comply with national minimum wage legislation. [166796]

17. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with HM Treasury on penalties for employers who fail to comply with minimum wage legislation. [166798]

23. **Miss Begg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussion he has had with HM Treasury on penalties for employers who fail to comply with national minimum wage legislation. [166804]

Mr. McFadden: BERR officials discussed new penalty proposals with HM Treasury and other interested departments before issuing a public consultation this May. The consultation asked for views on the introduction of a penalty for all non-compliant employers as well as a fairer method of repaying workers who have been underpaid. We will be issuing the Government's response to the consultation shortly.

21. **Ms Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the national minimum wage; and if he will make a statement. [166802]

Mr. McFadden: The Low Pay Commission assesses the effect of the minimum wage as part of its remit. The national minimum wage continues to be highly effective at helping the low paid through an increased minimum wage, while making sure that it does not damage the employment prospects.

Nuclear Power

13. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the cost and financial implications associated with a new generation of nuclear power stations. [166794]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government set out in their recent public consultation "The Future of Nuclear Power" their preliminary view is that it is in the public interest to give private sector energy companies the option of investing in new nuclear power stations. Chapter 4 sets out the Government's view on the costs involved. I will announce a decision in the new year.

UK-EU Trade Balance

14. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the UK's trade balance was with all other EU member states in the last year for which figures are available. [166795]

Mr. Thomas: The Office for National Statistics estimate that the UK deficit in trade in goods with the EU 27 was about £32 billion in 2006. Their latest estimate for trade in services was a balance close to zero.

Unfair Lending Practices

16. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps he has taken to tackle unfair lending practices. [166797]

Mr. Thomas: The Government are providing funding to step up enforcement action against illegal lenders (loan sharks) and help victims to access affordable credit.

In addition through last years Consumer Credit Act consumers can access a free and independent complaints service without having to go to court. While courts have also been given stronger powers to consider whether a borrower has been treated unfairly.

Employment Rights

18. **Anne Moffat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to raise the awareness of employment rights among employers and employees; and if he will make a statement. [166799]

Mr. McFadden: The Businesslink.gov website for employers and the Direct.gov site for employees provide authoritative advice on the full range of employment rights and a range of practical interactive tools that enable users to tailor the advice to their needs.

In addition, the ACAS helpline deals with nearly one million inquiries from employers and employees each year; and my Department publishes the booklet "Individual Rights and Responsibilities of Employees: a Guide for Employers and Employees".

My Department works closely with ACAS and Citizens' Advice to guide citizens and employers to the most appropriate source of information.

19. **Dr. Tony Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to promote employment rights among low paid workers; and if he will make a statement. [166800]

Mr. McFadden: People at work in Britain, particularly low paid workers, have benefited from the right to a minimum wage, paid holidays, rest breaks, time off for family emergencies, a cap on the working week and measures to support working parents; trade unions have the right to recognition by the employer where a majority of the workforce want it; part-time workers have the same rights as their full-time colleagues. The Government have introduced workplace protection against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, religion or belief and age; employees in larger organisations have rights to be informed and consulted about developments in the workplace.

Postal Services

20. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent progress there has been in implementing the Government's policy on postal services; and if he will make a statement. [166801]

Mr. McFadden: On 17 May, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced the Government's response to the public consultation on the Post Office network. Post Office Ltd. is now carrying that forward through local implementation plans. The plan for Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, which includes Banbury, is due for public consultation in February 2008.

Post Offices: Northavon

22. **Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many sub-post offices there were in Northavon in 1997; how many there are; and whether he has made an estimate of the number which will be open after the review is complete. [166803]

Mr. McFadden: I have asked the managing director of Post Office Ltd to write to the hon. Member with regard to his question.

Post Office Ltd is now developing local implementation plans and as yet no decisions have been made on individual post office closures. There are no local quotas for closures. I understand the local consultation for Bristol and Somerset, which includes the hon. Member's constituency is planned to start on 26 February 2008.

Post Offices

24. **Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what account he has taken of the level of deprivation, numbers of elderly people and the likely effects on business of post office closures in areas where closures are proposed. [166805]

Mr. McFadden: On 17 May, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced the Government's response to the public consultation on the post office network, which included the introduction of minimum access criteria. These criteria will ensure reasonable access across the whole country, and in particular safeguard coverage in rural, deprived urban and remote areas where communities are most in need of post office services.

In developing local implementation plans Post Office Ltd will be required to consider local demographics and the impact on local economies.

25. **Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with Post Office Ltd on the consultation process for post office closures. [166806]

Mr. McFadden: On 17 May my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced the Government's response to the public consultation on the post office network, including details of the local consultation process.

After local consultations are closed, Post Office Ltd will consider the responses, discuss any specific issues with Postwatch and make any changes to their proposals that they deem appropriate. There is also provision for Postwatch to nominate individual branches for further discussion and jointly review these with POL before final decisions are reached. The detailed consultation process is agreed in a Memorandum of Understanding between Post Office Ltd and Postwatch.

Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department plans to move any of its offices to Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. [166568]

Mr. Thomas: Individual units relocated and planned to be relocated under the Lyons relocations programme are relatively small (fewer than 150 posts). Given the small size of these units, posts have been relocated to existing regional accommodation and it is expected that, from an operational and financial viewpoint further units will be relocated using this rationale. Consequently there are no plans at the present time to move any of the Department's offices to Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency.

Departmental Buildings

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by his Department on renovation and refurbishment of its properties in each of the last five years. [164377]

Mr. Thomas: My Department has spent the following on renovation and refurbishments over the last five years. The figures include VAT.

	£ million
2002-03	1.6
2003-04	3.1
2004-05	[1]12.4
2005-06	[2]21.6
2006-07	1

[1] Includes £10 million two roof spend
[2] Includes £19 million two roof spend of which £3.4 million was programme spend

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff *(a)* have applied to work flexible hours and *(b)* work flexible hours (i) in his Department and (ii) in the executive agencies for which his Department is responsible. [164324]

Mr. Thomas: The Department does not centrally monitor the number of staff who have applied to and who work flexibly since flexible working patterns are agreed locally. However in the last annual staff survey 33 per cent. of respondents stated that they worked either formal (with timesheets) or informal flexitime arrangements. In addition, staff work a range of other flexible working patterns including compressed hours and homeworking as well as part-time and job-sharing.

The Department introduced its flexible working policy in 2002, including full guidance for managers and staff to ensure that new ways of working are available to individuals in all directorates and grades and that the benefits to stakeholders, customers, managers and staff are maximised.

Flexible working arrangements within executive agencies are a matter for the individual agency and the chief executives of Companies House and the Insolvency Service will write to the hon. member.

Departmental Opinion Polls

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what opinion polls his Department has conducted of *(a)* the public and *(b)* staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164940]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has conducted no opinion polls of all staff since 27 June 2007.

Departmental Stationery

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the Department of Trade and Industry spent on departmental branded stationery between 1 January and 27 June. [164497]

Mr. Thomas: Expenditure on DTI branded stationery between 1 January 2007 and 27 June 2007 through a central contract was £17,385 excluding VAT.

Electricity Generation

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many applications for electricity generation projects using *(a)* tidal power, *(b)* wave power, *(c)* wind, *(d)* biomass, *(e)* hydro power, *(f)* gas and *(g)* coal are awaiting his consent under the Electricity Act 1989; and what the megawatt capacity is for each category. [166220]

Malcolm Wicks: The following numbers of applications for consent under the Electricity Act 1989 in respect of electricity generating projects using the specified energy sources are currently with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

	Applications	*MW*
(a) Tidal power	[1]—	[1]—
(b) Wave power	1	7
(c) Wind power	12	2,580

	Applications	MW
(d) Biomass	2	423
(e) Hydro power	[1]—	[1]—
(f) Gas	7	7,330
(g) Coal	1	1,600

[1] No applications

Export Credit Guarantees: Sustainable Development

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals for legislation to make it a duty of the Export Credits Guarantee Department to promote sustainable development. [166590]

Malcolm Wicks: ECGD already operates to a set of business principles which include ensuring its activities take into account the Government's international policies, including those on sustainable development.

When ECGD considers support for a project, it not only looks at the payment risks but also at the underlying quality of the project, including its environmental, social and human rights impacts.

Minimum Wage

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many extra staff will be employed in national minimum wage enforcement following recent budget uplift. [165938]

Mr. McFadden: In 2006 the Chancellor announced an additional £2.9 million a year for monitoring and enforcement of the minimum wage, undertaken on BERR's behalf by HMRC. By the end of this financial year HMRC will employ 20 more staff to support this activity.

Nuclear Power: Research

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its predecessor has spent on research into nuclear power in the UK in each financial year since 1997-98. [166100]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* BERR has interest in research into power from nuclear fission and DIUS now has interest in nuclear fusion.

BERR expenditure (excluding spending by the research councils) on nuclear fission research is as follows:

	£ million
1997-98	1.0
1998-99	1.6
1999-2000	2.5
2000-01	0.0
2001-02	2.0
2002-03	2.1
2003-04	2.1
2004-05	2.2
2005-06	2.3
2006-07	2.4

Expenditure by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council on nuclear fission research is as follows:

	£ million
1997-98	0.04
1998-99	0.08
1999-2000	0.06
2000-01	0.13
2001-02	0.33
2002-03	0.31
2003-04	0.21
2004-05	0.11
2005-06	0.95
2006-07	2.80

Responsibility for funding of nuclear fusion research was transferred from the DTI's Nuclear Industries Directorate to the Office of Science and Technology in April 2002, and then to the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) in April 2003. The amount of funding from 1997-98 until 2006-07 is given as follows.

	£ million
1997-98	16.6
1998-99	12.6
1999-2000	14.3
2000-01	17.0
2001-02	14.4
2002-03	14.8
2003-04	15.9
2004-05	22.7
2005-06	20.6
2006-07	25.7

Post Offices: Access

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance he has given the Post Office on the contents of the branch access report; what constitutes a sloping terrain; and if he will make a statement. [166396]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* None. This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Tidal Power: Pembrokeshire

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with *(a)* Lunar Energy and *(b)* Eon on the construction of a tidal power generation project off the North Pembrokeshire coast. [166212]

Malcolm Wicks: My officials have had one meeting with representatives of Lunar Energy Ltd. and E.ON UK plc to discuss a proposal to develop a pre-commercial tidal energy project off the Pembrokeshire coast. Subsequent to that meeting, a request for a formal scoping opinion under Regulation 7 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment)

(England and Wales) Regulations 2000 has been made by E.ON UK plc in respect of that project.

Wind Power

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what dates the Working Group on noise from wind farms, referred to in the answer of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1085, on wind farms, has met; and if he will make a statement. [165913]

Malcolm Wicks: The Noise Working Group was convened to advise Government on the specific issue of aerodynamic modulation as raised in the Hayes Mackenzie report "The measurement of Low Frequency Noise at three UK wind farms", and its objectives were to:

Consider and agree, if thought appropriate, the main conclusions of the report

Consider the report's findings relating to AM

If appropriate, provide a means to assess and apply a correction where AM is predictable to be a clearly audible feature.

Make clear recommendations to advise Government.

The group met on three occasions: on 2 August 2006, 19 October 2006, and 23 April 2007. The minutes of these meetings can be found on the BERR website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file35043.pdf

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file35595.pdf

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39560.pdf

World War II: Medals

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make Bevin Boys veterans' badges available to the *(a)* widows and *(b)* children of eligible men who have died. [165994]

Malcolm Wicks: As with other veteran badges the Bevin Boys Veterans Badge is a survivors badge and it is intended that it can be worn in public by Bevin Boys to raise awareness of the important role they played during World War II and in the post-war reconstruction of the UK. However, as it was anticipated that the application form would not be launched before October this year, some four months after the date the Badge was announced, we announced that applications would be accepted from the widows of Bevin Boys who died on or after 20 June 2007, when the Badge was announced, where a death and marriage certificate are attached to the application.

We have no plans to extend the criteria further.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average age was of patients admitted to accident and emergency units in the East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust in the latest period for which figures are available. [165322]

Dawn Primarolo: Figures for East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust (PCT) are not yet available. Data for this PCT will be published mid-December 2007.

However, figures for the mean age of patients admitted via accident and emergency units are available for the former PCTs from 2005-06 and are shown in the following table.

PCT	*Mean age*
Eastbourne Downs PCT	56
Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	55

Allergies

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department is supporting into allergies; and if he will make a statement. [165601]

Dawn Primarolo: An account of the allergy research funded by the Department is given in the written memorandum of evidence we submitted to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee inquiry into allergy. The memorandum was published on 26 September 2007 as part of the Committee's report (HL Paper 166-11). Copies are available in the Library.

Further information will be contained in the Government response to the Committee's report that will be published shortly.

Alzheimer's Disease: Medical Treatments

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the efficacy of *(a)* CAD16 and *(b)* PBT 2 in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. [166330]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not commission the clinical trails needed to generate estimates of the efficacy of specific compounds in specific diseases. Such trials are funded in competition by the Medical Research Council and the Health Technology Assessment Programme. No such work has been commissioned for CAD16 or PBT2 in Alzheimer's disease. In terms of the assessment of existing evidence of efficacy, this was completed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and no such review has been completed.

Ambulance Services: South East Coast Strategic Health Authority

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1162W, on ambulance services: South East Coast Strategic Health Authority, if he will list the national publications in which the evidence referred to in the Answer is a theme; and if he will place copies of such publications in the Library. [166734]

Dawn Primarolo: As stated in the answer of 17 October, this is a matter for the local national health service. I have therefore asked the Chief Executive of West Sussex Primary Care Trust to write to the hon. Member about this matter.

Basildon Hospital: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* procedures and *(b)* standards are required to be in place to deliver infection control in Basildon hospital; what mechanisms there are for monitoring the implementation of these procedures; and what assessment he has made of Basildon hospital's performance against these standards. [166768]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 21 November 2007]:* Basildon hospital is subject to the national standards that have been put in place in relation to healthcare associated infections.

The "Health Act 2006: Code of Practice for the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections" came into force on 1 October 2006. It requires national health service bodies to have appropriate management and clinical governance systems in place to deliver effective infection control. Compliance with the Code is assessed by the Healthcare Commission, which has the power to issue an 'improvement notice', to an NHS body that in its view is not properly observing it.

This is the first Government to introduce mandatory surveillance of healthcare associated infections (HCAIs), beginning with methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteraemias in April 2001. In January 2007, we introduced quarterly publication of mandatory data for MRSA and *C. difficile*.

Tackling HCAIs is a priority in the NHS operating framework. We have set a nationwide target, to halve the number of MRSA bloodstream infections by April 2008, and each Trust has its own local MRSA target. From April 2007, primary care trusts and trusts have been required to agree local targets to reduce significantly *C. difficile* infections. Under the new "Better Care for All" public service agreement, we have set new requirements for the period to 2010-11, to maintain the current MRSA target (keep MRSA bloodstream infections below half the numbers in 2003-04), and to deliver a 30 per cent. reduction in *C. difficile* infections compared with the numbers in 2007-08.

We have introduced a wide range of measures to help support the NHS in tackling HCAIs. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement, given on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 49WS.

In addition, the hon. Gentleman may find the Clean Safe Care website helpful www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk. This website provides a central hub for information and news on HCAIs, as well as providing a gateway to key tools and guidance.

Blood Transfusions

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the use of prion removal filters to ensure the safety of blood products for transfusion. [165847]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Kettering (Mr. Hollobone) on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1298W.

Care Homes: Closures

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care homes have closed in *(a)* Eastbourne, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* England in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [165316]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data on care home closures prior to 2002 are not held centrally. We are informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that the numbers of homes de-registered in Eastbourne, East Sussex and England since 2002-03 were as shown in the table. De-registration includes not only homes permanently closed but also temporary closures, for example, while refurbishment takes place or while a new manager is appointed.

Number of de-registered care homes by year and by area

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*[1]	*Total*
Eastbourne[2]	6	11	5	15	8	4	49
East Sussex	50	45	30	44	50	13	232
England	2,337	2,898	1,795	1,884	1,663	754	11,331

[1] To 4 November 2007.
[2] These figures may be slightly lower than the actual number of deregistrations in Eastbourne because of missing data.
Source:
CSCI Registration and Inspection Database 2007 (data as at 4 November 2007).

Care Homes: Complaints

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the role and powers of the Commission for Social Care Inspection are in the investigation of individual complaints of poor *(a)* practice and *(b)* treatment in care homes. [166495]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The current arrangements for handling complaints in social care are determined by the provisions of the Local Authority Social Services Complaints (England) Regulations 2006 and the Care Standards Act (CSA) 2000. Together, these define the respective statutory responsibilities of local authorities and regulated care providers in matters of complaint.

The current framework for the regulation of provider care services was implemented in 2002, with the creation of the National Care Standards Commission (NCSC). The CSA 2000 placed no statutory complaints duties upon the NCSC and did not provide any powers for their investigation. The legislation defined the role of the regulator as one of ensuring the compliance of providers with their statutory complaints responsibilities.

As a regulator, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) has mandatory powers of compulsion under the CSA 2000 to ensure the compliance of care providers where a complaint indicates a breach under

the Care Homes Regulations 2001 or the associated National Minimum Standards (NMS). In such instances, CSCI will issue requirements aimed at bringing the provider into compliance, and if necessary, will issue a statutory notice where the requirement has not been observed. Non-compliance with a statutory notice is an offence that can result in a cancellation of a provider's registration.

CSCI can ensure that a breach of regulations identified by an individual complaint is acted upon through its compliance activity, to the benefit of all people using a regulated care service.

In effect, CSCI uses its powers of inspection as the regulator to undertake proportionate inquiries into all information (including complaints) brought to its attention about regulated care services. CSCI considers that its focus is correctly upon provider compliance with service specific regulations and NMS, not interpersonal conflict resolution between complainant and provider, for which it has no statutory responsibilities.

Care Homes: Private Sector

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase the protection of elderly people living in private care homes; and if he will make a statement. [163853]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government regard the abuse of vulnerable and older people in any setting as unacceptable in all its forms and are determined to root it out. We are addressing the issue in a variety of ways.

We set out standards for care and treatment for the national health service and social care services via the National Service Frameworks for Older People and Mental Health and the White Paper, Valuing People: A New Strategy for Learning Disability.

We introduced regulations and national minimum standards for care homes, domiciliary care agencies and adult placements. These are intended to ensure vulnerable and older people can live in a safe environment, where their rights and dignity are respected, staff are properly trained and care is of the requisite quality. The regulations and national minimum standards apply equally to all providers of care, whether in the private, voluntary or public sectors.

We have created independent regulators, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) and the Healthcare Commission, and given them the powers they need to take action against poorly performing providers or where abuse occurs. Ultimately, they have the power to close services down. All providers of care, including private care homes are legally required to register with and be inspected and regulated by CSCI.

We expect local authorities to play their part. No Secrets, published by the Department in 2000 provides a complete definition of abuse and a framework for councils to work with the police, the national health service and regulators to tackle abuse and prevent it from occurring. On June 14 this year, I also announced a review of the No Secrets guidance. The case for legislation to protect vulnerable adults will be considered as part of the review.

Local authorities have been given specific responsibilities. Statutory guidance issued in May 2006 required them to ensure that Directors of Adult Social Services maintain a clear organisational and operational focus on safeguarding vulnerable adults and that relevant statutory requirements and other national standards are met, including Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) requirements. Local authorities must make sure the Director of Adult Social Services has the powers and resources necessary to encourage a culture of vigilance against the possibility of adult abuse.

We introduced the POVA Scheme in July 2004, under the provisions in Part 7 of the Care Standards Act 2000, which requires staff who provide personal care to older people in their own homes or in care homes to be subject to statutory checks, including checks of their criminal record. At the heart of the POVA scheme is the POVA list, which operates as a workforce ban and prevents dangerous or unscrupulous people from gaining access to older and vulnerable people in care homes or being cared for in their own homes. Only the employers in regulated social care services or the regulator, CSCI, can make referrals to the POVA list.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005, which came into force on 1 October 2007, introduces a new criminal offence of ill treatment or wilful neglect of a person who lacks capacity.

The Government support the work of Action on Elder Abuse (AEA). AEA has been awarded a Section 64 grant, totalling £360,000. This grant covers the three year period from 2007 to 2009 and is to help fund central administrative costs, which will include their freephone helpline for anyone concerned in any way about the abuse of older people.

We are introducing a new centralised vetting and barring scheme for people working with children and vulnerable people. This scheme, as set out in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, will extend the coverage of existing barring schemes, such as POVA and draw on wider sources of information to provide a more comprehensive and consistent measure of protection for vulnerable groups across a wide range of settings, including the whole of social care and the NHS. The new scheme will make it far more difficult for abusers to gain access to some of the most vulnerable groups in society and will be a significant step forward.

Carers: Influenza

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many carers in England received influenza vaccinations in 2006-07. [166845]

Dawn Primarolo: At the end of the 2006-07 flu campaign, 47,040 carers had received a flu vaccination from those general practitioners reporting data.

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many carers in England have received influenza vaccinations in 2007 to date. [166847]

Dawn Primarolo: By the end of October 2007, 34,731 carers received a flu vaccination from those general practitioners reporting data.

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* publicity and *(b)* other activities his Department is planning in order to increase the number of eligible carers being offered influenza vaccinations in 2007-08. [166848]

Dawn Primarolo: Details of those eligible to receive their free flu vaccination this year was made available to all health professionals via the chief medical officer letter dated 30 March 2007 and also as part of the "If you knew about Flu" campaign leaflet. 2 million of these leaflets have been distributed as part of this year's campaign.

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many carers in England will be eligible for routinely-offered influenza vaccinations in accordance with the Chief Medical Officer's guidance letter. [166853]

Dawn Primarolo: Flu vaccine is given to carers at the discretion of their general practitioner (GP). Based on results from the national flu vaccine uptake survey, it is estimated that around 200,000 primary carers have so far been identified by GP practices in England.

This figure is based on carers who are known to their GP and are recorded as a primary carer in their GP notes.

Clostridium: Eastern Region

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *clostridium difficile* there were in *(a)* Addenbrookes Hospital, *(b)* West Suffolk Hospital and *(c)* Ipswich Hospital in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007 to date. [162587]

Ann Keen: The mandatory surveillance system operated run by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) provides data on the number of reports of *clostridium difficile* (C. difficile) associated disease. All acute national health service trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of blood stream infections processed by their laboratories and the system does not record when or how the infection was acquired. The current HPA C. difficile associated disease data are therefore published at trust level.

Mandatory surveillance of C. difficile was introduced in 2004 for patients aged 65 and over to help assess the scale of the problem and concentrate attention on this infection. This has been extended to all patients aged two and over from April this year.

The figures for patients aged 65 and over for the trusts covering Addenbrookes hospital (Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust), West Suffolk hospital (West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust) and Ipswich hospital (Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust) are shown in the following table.

NHS Trust	*Figures for C. difficile associated disease*		
	2005	*2006*	*January to June 2007*
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	400	422	262
West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust	442	378	194
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	347	483	283

Source:
HPA data.

This information and any further information on the number of C. difficile infections for NHS Acute Trusts is available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/Mandatory_Results.htm

Dental Services: Dorset

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there were in North Dorset in each year since 1997; and how many of them *(a)* admitted new adult patients to their list and *(b)* treated NHS patients between the ages of 18 and 65 years in each of those years. [165255]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* Numbers of national health service dentists at primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) level as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 are available in annex E of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". Information at parliamentary constituency level is available in annex G.

Numbers of adult patients (aged 18 and over) registered with an NHS dentist at PCT and SHA level as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 are available in annex A of the aforementioned report. Information at parliamentary constituency level is available in annex C.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements. This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

The number of NHS dentists at PCT and SHA level as at 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in table E1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

The inclusion of dentists on trust-led contracts in the data collection following the 2006 reforms means that data collected since April 2006 cannot be directly compared with data collected under the previous system.

In both reports, the work force numbers quoted are headcounts and do not differentiate between full and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Since April 2006, patients no longer have to be registered with a dental practice to receive NHS care and treatment. The closest equivalent current measure is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') in a given area over a 24-month period, for that area. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The number of adult patients (aged 18 and over) seen in the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in table C1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07" report. Information is available at PCT and SHA area in England.

This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* 18 to 65 and *(b)* under 18-year-olds were registered for NHS dentist treatment in North Dorset in each year since 1997. [165256]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* The number of adult and child patients registered with a national health service dentist are available in annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". This report is available in the Library.

Information is available for strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) area, in England, 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2006.

This information is based on contractual arrangements prior to 31 March 2006.

The report is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Since April 2006, patients no longer have to be registered with a dental practice to receive NHS care and treatment.

The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') in a given area over a 24-month period, for that area. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The number of adult and child patients seen in the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in table C1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07" report. This report is available in the Library. Information is available for SHA and PCT areas in England.

This report is also available online at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The reports are published by the Information Centre for health and social care.

Drugs: Misuse

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which classes of prescription and over-the-counter products are classified by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency as having the greatest potential for patients to become physically dependent on or addicted to them. [166605]

Dawn Primarolo: Medicines which are known to have significant potential for physical dependence and addiction, and which may be abused or diverted, are designated as controlled drugs and come within the scope of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) continuously monitors the safety of all medicines in the United Kingdom, including concerns about dependence and addiction, and, where necessary, takes suitable action to safeguard public health. The MHRA does not classify medicines by their potential for causing physical dependence or addiction.

As new evidence comes to light, the MHRA seeks advice on safety issues from its independent scientific advisory group—the Commission on Human Medicines. If action is needed, following an assessment of the risks and benefits of the medicine, then a number of regulatory options are available, including: withdrawal of a product from the market; and, amending the labelling and patient information leaflet.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average age of patients is in his Department's three-centre pilot into the use of diamorphine to treat heroin addiction; what the *(a)* shortest, *(b)* longest and *(c)* average length of their heroin addiction was; what total length of time each had spent in prison before the programme began; what the average length of their sentences had been; how many court appearances each had had; on how many occasions each member of the pilot group had been admitted to hospital for (i) overdose through accident and emergency and (ii) for patient stays linked to their drug use; and what the estimated number of acquisitive crimes committed by this group was (A) in total and (B) on average before the pilot. [167096]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Addiction Centre is currently undertaking the Randomised Injectable Opiate Treatment Trial, which is examining injectable diamorphine, injectable methadone and oral methadone treatments in a randomised controlled trial.

The trial, although supported by the Government, is an independent study following strict research governance protocols. The information requested will not therefore be available prior to the publication of the research findings.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the proposed Drug Treatment Agency allocation is for *(a)* Bristol and *(b)* north Somerset for each year covered by comprehensive spending review. [164427]

Dawn Primarolo: No decisions have been finalised about the pooled drug treatment budget allocations from April 2008 onwards.

East and West Kent NHS Hospitals Trust: Clostridium

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the infection rates were for *Clostridium difficile* in the East and West Kent NHS Hospitals Trust in each of the last three years; and on what basis these rates are calculated. [166616]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 20 November2007]:* The mandatory surveillance system operated by the Health Protection Agency provides data on the number of reports of *Clostridium difficile* (C. difficile) infection

(CDI). All acute national health service trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of CDI processed by their laboratories and the data is published at trust level.

Mandatory surveillance of *Clostridium difficile* was introduced in 2004 for patients aged 65 and over and has been extended to all patients aged two and over from April this year.

The data provided in the following table are for the acute NHS trusts that fall within the Kent region. This information and any further information on the number of CDIs for NHS acute trusts is available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/Mandatory_Results.htm

Number of reported cases of Clostridium difficile infections

	Patients >65 years					
	January to December 2004		*January to December 2005*		*January to December 2006*	
Trust	*Number of Clostridium difficile reports*	*Rate per 1,000 bed days*	*Number of Clostridium difficile reports*	*Rate per 1,000 bed days*	*Number of Clostridium difficile reports*	*Rate per 1,000 bed days*
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	167	1.74	130	1.36	211	2.20
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	638	1.97	705	2.19	528	1.64
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	484	3.27	464	3.14	545	3.69
Medway NHS Trust	246	2.29	251	2.34	225	2.10

Note:
Data are provisional.
Source:
Health Protection Agency.

The numerator used is the number of *Clostridium difficile* reports for each trust for each year (January to December).

The denominator used is based on the total bed days for patients 65 years and over for January to December 2004 for each trust as derived from the Hospital Episode Statistics data.

The number of bed days was calculated from the total length of consultant episodes for patients 65 years and over for that trust during the period. The number was adjusted to take account of the leap year in 2004.

East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust: Clostridium

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have *(a)* contracted and *(b)* died from *clostridium difficile* at East Sussex NHS Trust hospitals in the last 10 years. [165309]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

The best available data on the number of reports of *Clostridium difficile* infections are for patients aged 65 and over and come from the mandatory surveillance scheme run by the Health Protection Agency. The following table shows data for East Sussex Hospital NHS Trust from January 2004 to June 2007.

	Number of C. difficile reports for patients aged 65 years and over
January to December 2004	393
January to December 2005	387
January to December 2006	374
January to June 2007	128

Source:
Health Protection Agency—provisional data.

It is not possible to identify where the infection was acquired.

Heart Diseases: Drugs

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his assessment is of the effectiveness of traditional coronary heart disease drugs on *(a)* women and *(b)* men; and if he will make a statement. [166597]

Dawn Primarolo: Medicinal products licensed for treatment of coronary heart disease are assessed for safety, efficacy and quality, in both men and women. Post marketing surveillance continues the monitoring of safety signals after approval for use of these products in a wider population. Products currently approved for treatment of coronary heart disease are safe and effective in men and women when used in accordance with their approved prescribing recommendations.

Heart Diseases: West Midlands

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* angioplasty and *(b)* revascularisation procedures were carried out in (i) Stoke, (ii) south Staffordshire, (iii) north Staffordshire, (iv) Telford and Wrekin and (v) Shropshire county primary care trusts in each year since 2003, broken down by type. [165216]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the table. The source of the data is the hospital episode statistics (HES) held by the information centre for health and social care (IC). The data are provided for five primary care trusts (PCTs), in their commissioning, rather than provider of treatment role.

Historical information for new PCTs (i.e. pre 1 October 2006) has been calculated by the 1C based on information previously provided by predecessor organisations.

Rather than grouping procedures under the headings 'angioplasty' and 'revascularisation' the 1C has provided a more detailed break-down of the operative procedures that sit under these headings so there is no confusion as to what has been included and counted. Angioplasty has been classed as those codes between K49-K50 and 'revascularisation' has been classed as those codes between K40-K46.

		Selected operative procedures	*North Staffordshire PCT*	*Shropshire County PCT*	*South Staffordshire PCT*	*Stoke on Trent PCT*	*Telford and Wrekin PCT*
2003-04	K40	Saphenous vein graft replacement of coronary artery	87	170	233	107	71
	K41	Other autograft replacement of coronary artery	*	15	14	15	12
	K43	Prosthetic replacement of coronary artery	*	—	—	—	—
	K44	Other replacement of coronary artery	—	*	11	*	—
	K45	Connection of thoractic artery to coronary artery	83	160	231	106	70
	K49	Translumical balloon angioplasty of coronary artery	156	103	353	189	63
	K50	Other therapeutic transluminal operations/coronary artery	*	*	*	*	—
2004-05	K40	Saphenous vein graft replacement of coronary artery	143	155	273	151	85
	K41	Other autograft replacement of coronary artery	8	22	15	16	*
	K42	Allograft replacement of coronary artery	—	—	—	*	—
	K43	Prosthetic replacement of coronary artery	—	—	*	—	—
	K44	Other replacement of coronary artery	*	*	*	*	*
	K45	Connection of thoractic artery to coronary artery	126	153	259	139	75
	K49	Translumical balloon angioplasty of coronary artery	294	194	531	376	107
	K50	Other therapeutic transluminal operations/coronary artery	*	*	*	*	—
2005-06	K40	Saphenous vein graft replacement of Coronary Artery	93	142	259	127	68
	K41	Other autograft replacement of coronary artery	—	7	35	—	*
	K42	Allograft replacement of coronary artery	—	—	*	—	—
	K44	Other replacement of coronary artery	*	*	*	*	*
	K45	Connection of thoractic artery to coronary artery	83	128	249	105	65
	K46	Other bypass of coronary artery	—	—	*	—	—
	K49	Translumical balloon angioplasty of coronary artery	233	163	541	279	119

		Selected operative procedures	North Staffordshire PCT	Shropshire County PCT	South Staffordshire PCT	Stoke on Trent PCT	Telford and Wrekin PCT
	K50	Other therapeutic transluminal operations/coronary artery	*	*	15	*	*

Notes:
All operations count of mentions—These figures represent a count of all mentions of an operative procedure in any of the 12 (four prior to 2002-03) operative procedure fields in the HES data set. Therefore, if a operative procedure is mentioned in more than one operative procedure field during an episode, all operative procedure are counted.
Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)—An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Episodes do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
Main operation—The main operation is the first recorded operation in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main operation when looking at admission details, e.g. time waited, but the figures for "all operations count of episodes" give a more complete count of episodes with an operation.
Secondary procedure—As well as the main operative procedure, there are up to 11 (three prior to 2002-03) secondary operation fields in HES that show secondary or additional procedures performed on the patient during the episode of care.
PCT and strategic health authority (SHA) data quality—PCT and SHA data were added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* cleaning staff and *(b)* cleaning service providers in (i) hospitals and (ii) health or social care institutions were subject to disciplinary or contractual proceedings in each of the last five years. [165535]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* This information is not held centrally by the Department. Individual disciplinary and contractual proceedings against directly employed or contracted out cleaners are a matter for local health and social care organisations to manage as part of their everyday business. Employers can determine any sanction necessary, ranging from a warning up to and including dismissal. This has to be justified on the grounds of competence or conduct but subject to the provisions of the laws governing employment and equal opportunities. Any action against contracted out services will be subject to the terms of the contract in question.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* cases of and *(b)* deaths from (i) MRSA, (ii) C-difficile and (iii) all hospital-acquired infections there were at Basildon hospital in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [166767]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 21 November 2007]:* The information requested is not available. However, Basildon hospital is part of the Basildon and Thurrock university hospitals NHS foundation trust for which the following information is available on methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and glycopeptide resistant enterococci bloodstream infections and Clostridium difficile infection from the mandatory surveillance scheme run by the Health Protection Agency.

Number of cases of MRSA at Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

April to March each year	Number of methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bloodstream infection reports
2001-02	60
2002-03	38
2003-04	30
2004-05	42
2005-06	36
2006-07	24

Source:
Health Protection Agency—provisional data

Number of cases of C. difficile in Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

January to December each year	Number of C. difficile reports for patients aged 65 years and over
2004	410
2005	470
2006	545

Source:
Health Protection Agency—provisional data

Number of cases of glycopeptide resistant enterococcal bloodstream infection reports in Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

October to September each year	Number of glycopeptide resistant enterococcal bloodstream infection reports
2003-04	3
2004-05	6
2005-06	6

Source:
Health Protection Agency—provisional data

We do not know how many of these cases are acquired in hospital.

Figures on deaths involving MRSA or C. difficile in individual hospitals are not currently available. It is not possible to state how many deaths in a particular hospital were hospital-acquired as the place where an infection was acquired may not be known to the doctor certifying the death, and a question asking where infections were acquired is not specifically asked on the death certificate.

Hospitals: Inspections

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he intends to publish the findings of the 2007 inspections of the patient environment action team inspections. [166416]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 21 November 2007]:* The results of the 2007 Patient Environment Action Team programme were published on 21 November 2007.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what programmes of work undertaken by his Department since 1 March 2005 have related to the prioritisation of treatment in the event of an influenza pandemic; [166453]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with the World Health Organisation on the subject of pandemic preparedness since January 2007; whether any of these discussions related to the prioritisation of treatment in the event of an influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [166454]

Dawn Primarolo: A number of activities have taken place by the Department to address the issues around prioritisation. This includes prioritisation of some limited medicine stockpiles such as the existing stockpile of A/H5N1 pre-pandemic vaccine to specific groups, and (draft—for public discussion) guidance on the prioritisation of essential services and treatments above non-essential care—if this was required.

Issues around prioritisation are also addressed in the ethical framework—where it is recognised that there will be individual challenges as well as service challenges—and through the public engagement strategy where we are engaging the public in discussion on such issues.

The Department has had numerous discussions with the World Health Organisation about pandemic influenza preparedness. These discussions have taken place at the following meetings:

April 2007: WHO meeting on increasing H5N1 stockpiles and increasing the access of developing countries to pandemic influenza vaccines.

May 2007: World Health Assembly meeting on virus sharing and intellectual property

June 2007: Presentation on ethical issues in pandemic influenza planning.

The WHO meeting held in June 2007 addressed ethical issues in general and also featured a presentation on work done by the WHO at its meeting in October 2006; that meeting had discussed prioritisation issues. It recognised the ethical dilemma's countries were dealing with and observed that ethics could not provide set answers. The full summary of the discussions in is available at:

www.who.int/ethics/influenza_project/en/index.html

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to *(a)* suspend national NHS targets and *(b)* order the suspension of local NHS targets in the event of an influenza pandemic. [166455]

Dawn Primarolo: The operating framework sets down the priorities for the national health service, including exceptional circumstances which strategic health authorities (SHAs) should take into account before deciding whether to suspend national or local NHS targets.

The Department has also issued an ethical framework for responding to an influenza pandemic, which provides principles that will guide the NHS in implementing the national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic and in taking decisions about 'normal business' such as implementing the operating framework.

In the event of an influenza pandemic, the decision about whether to suspend these targets is one which will be taken by the NHS in light of the prevailing situation.

Influenza: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the take-up of influenza vaccine by pensioners living in Eastbourne constituency in each year since 1997. [165341]

Dawn Primarolo: Flu vaccine uptake data was collected for the first time on those aged 65 and over from 2000. Information is collected by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority. Information is not collected by constituency.

The percentage of those aged 65 and over who received a flu vaccine in Eastbourne in East Sussex, Brighton and Hove in 2000-01 and 2001-02 and Eastbourne Downs PCT since 2002-03 is given in the following table.

Vaccination uptake among the 65 years and over for Eastbourne by year, 2000-06

South East	*Geography*	*Total persons aged 65 and over from returning practices*	*Total persons aged 65+ vaccinated*	*Total percentage uptake*
2000-01	Eastbourne in East Sussex, Brighton and Hove	151,731	101,616	67.0
2001-02	Eastbourne in East Sussex, Brighton and Hove	148,284	104,813	70.7
2002-03	Eastbourne Downs PCT (in Surrey and Sussex HA)	42,352	30,332	72
2003-04	Eastbourne Downs PCT (in Surrey and Sussex HA)	42,414	32,409	76.4
2004-05	Eastbourne Downs PCT (in Surrey and Sussex HA)	43,568	30,842	71
2005-06	Eastbourne Downs PCT (in Surrey and Sussex HA)	39,530	29,694	75.1
2006-07	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	73,249	53,878	73.6

Vaccination uptake among the 65 years and over for Eastbourne by year, 2000-06

South East	Geography	Total persons aged 65 and over from returning practices	Total persons aged 65+ vaccinated	Total percentage uptake
Total		541,128	383,584	71

Note:
Uptake figures include only those practices who have returned forms.
Source:
Influenza Immunisation Uptake Monitoring Programme Health Protection Agency

The change in geography reflected in the total returns by PCT mapped to areas

Area	HA/PCT
South East	Surrey and Sussex HA
Berkshire	Bexhill and Rother PCT
Buckinghamshire	East Elmbridge and Mid-Surrey PCT
East Kent	East Surrey PCT
East Surrey	Hastings and St. Leonards PCT
East Sussex, Brighton/Hove	Mid Sussex PCT
North and Mid Hants	Brighton and Hove City PCT
Northamptonshire	Eastbourne Downs PCT
Oxfordshire	Sussex Downs and Weald PCT
Portsmouth and South East Hants	Guildford and Waverley PCT
Southampton and South West Hants	North Surrey PCT
West Kent	Woking Area PCT
West Surrey	Adur, Arun and Worthing PCT
West Sussex	Crawley PCT
	Horsham and Chanctonbury PCT
	Western Sussex PCT

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to review the seasonal influenza immunisation programme. [166387]

Dawn Primarolo: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), which provides independent expert advice on vaccination issues to the Department and Ministers, keeps all vaccination programmes including the seasonal flu vaccination programme under review.

This includes the review of the uptake achieved in the target groups of those aged 65 years and over, and in the risk groups under 65 years.

Lung Diseases: Research

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resources have been committed by his Department for research into chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. [165327]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department funds national health service research and development through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The Institute's research programmes support high quality research of relevance and in areas of high priority to patients and the NHS. That research currently includes three trials on aspects of the diagnosis and treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) funded by the Health Technology Assessment programme at a total cost of £2 million, and a £237,000 COPD project in the Research for Patient Benefit programme. Respiratory disease has additionally been identified as a research priority in the call for proposals for new Biomedical Research Units the NIHR published in July 2007.

The Department's Policy Research Programme has commissioned a systematic review to support the development of the COPD National Service Framework.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by NHS organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects including a substantial number concerned with COPD are available on the national research register at:

www.nrr.nhs.uk.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government supports medical and clinical research. The MRC's current commitment to COPD research includes some ten separate research projects; funding for a new MRC Centre for COPD Research at Imperial College, London; and support for a long-term research programme at the MRC Epidemiology Resource Centre on genetic and early environmental determinants of chronic obstructive lung disease.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust: Clostridium

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of the five non-executive directors who resigned from the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Hospitals Trust as a result of the *clostridium difficile* outbreak were in post when the outbreak occurred; and if he will make a statement. [166614]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* South East Coast Strategic Health Authority has advised my officials that three non-executive directors have resigned from Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Hospitals. As stated in the press release from Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust published on 12 November 2007, one joined in June 2006, one in July 2006 and the third in September 2006, and although in post when the Healthcare Commission Report was sent to the Trust, they were not in post during the *clostridium difficile* outbreaks.

The non-executives who are near the end of their four year term will leave the trust at the end of November.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust: Pay

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the strategic health authority was consulted about the proposed compensation payment to the outgoing chief executive of the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Hospitals Trust; and if he will make a statement. [166615]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* I understand that discussions about the compensation payment were held between South East Coast Strategic Health Authority and Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust. However, the decision about proposed compensation payment was taken by the Trust.

Nurses: Foreign Workers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-EU/EEA nurses have been hired by the NHS in each of the last five years. [162229]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

The nursing and midwifery council collects information on the number of nurses who register with them from overseas each year. It does not collect data on whether these nurses entered the United Kingdom, returned to their own country or worked in the national health service.

This information is available at:

www.nmc-uk.org/aSection.aspx?SectionID=5

Prescriptions

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to general practitioners on issuing prescriptions for more than three months' supply of medication in circumstances where the patient will be out of the country. [166331]

Dawn Primarolo: Under the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations 2004, where a person for whose treatment a doctor is responsible leaves the United Kingdom with the intention of being away for a period of at least three months, that person should be removed from the doctor's list from the date of departure and as a consequence, ceases to be eligible for national health service treatment. The Department has not issued specific guidance on the issuing of prescriptions in these circumstances.

Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust: Midwives

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were employed by the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust in each of the last five years. [165083]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* The information requested is provided in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services: qualified midwifery staff in the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust	84	83	80	74	76

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical workforce Census.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for which academies sponsorship monies are overdue for payment; who the sponsor is in each case; and if he will make a statement. [166341]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 376-70W.

Antisocial Behaviour

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the role of the Youth Taskforce will be in tackling antisocial behaviour committed by adults. [167117]

Beverley Hughes: The Home Office has responsibility for policy on antisocial behaviour, crime and disorder. Work across Government, including the Department of Children Schools and Families, contributes to the Government's strategy to tackle antisocial behaviour and its causes.

The Youth Taskforce, announced on 5 October, will support local delivery of the Government's strategy on antisocial behaviour, with a particular focus on promoting earlier intervention and support to young people. It will publish an action plan in spring 2008.

Assessments: Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate is of the cost of holding national tests at Key Stage *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2 and *(c)* 3 in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [166683]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the delivery of national curriculum tests. QCA's estimate of the cost of delivering the national curriculum tests for Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 in 2007/08 is £50,570,000. QCA's records do not support the split of this information between the various key stages.

Children in Care

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many young people in the care of each local authority gained a place at *(a)* university and *(b)* another higher education institution in 2007; [167123]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of children in the care of a local authority who have access to *(a)* a trained counsellor and *(b)* mentor in each local authority area; [167124]

(3) how many young people in the care of a local authority were not in employment, education or training in each local authority area, in the latest period for which figures are available; [167125]

(4) how many children or young people in the care of a local authority had a statement of special educational needs in each local authority area, in the latest period for which figures are available. [167126]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of young people in the care of each local authority that gained a place at *(a)* university and *(b)* another higher education institution in 2007, as well as the number of young people in the care of a local authority who have access to *(a)* a trained counsellor and *(b)* mentor in each local authority area is not collected centrally by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). However, information at national level on the number of children that are now aged 19 who were looked after on 1 April 2004 but have since left care and are engaged in higher educational studies (i.e. studies beyond A level) is shown in the Statistical First Release 27/2007 (entitled Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007), via table G1 at http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml. The figures at local authority level will be released on 29 November 2007 at the same website.

Information on the number young people in the care of a local authority that were not in employment, education or training in each local authority area and the number of children or young people in the care of a local authority that had a statement of special educational needs in each local authority area can be found in tables 6 and 1, respectively on the Department's website at http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000727/index.shtml. This Statistical First Release (17/2007—Outcome Indicators for Looked After Children: Twelve Months to 30 September 2006, England) contains information on children and young people in England who have been looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 30 September.

Information on the activity of children that were aged 19 years during the year ending 31 March 2006 who were looked after at 1 April 2003, including whether they were in education, employment or training, is available from table 21 of the publication available at http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000721/index.shtml entitled Children Looked After by Local Authorities, Year Ending 31 March 2006.

Children in Care: Offenders

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children or young people in the care of a local authority were *(a)* in receipt of an antisocial behaviour order, *(b)* serving a suspended sentence and *(c)* serving a prison sentence on the latest date for which figures are available. [167146]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of children looked after by local authorities within England who were *(a)* in receipt of an antisocial behaviour order, and *(b)* serving a suspended sentence is not collected centrally by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

The number of children looked after by local authorities within England who were placed in a young offenders' institution or prison at 31 March 2007 was 160. 20 of these children were on remand or committed for trial.

Children: Day Care

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the time it will take to provide a place in a childcare scheme for each lone parent who requires one. [166992]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities are currently completing assessments of the sufficiency of childcare in their areas, as required by the Childcare Act 2006, identifying demand for childcare—including from lone parents—together with available supply and any gaps between the two. From April 2008, local authorities will have a new duty to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, childcare places for all working parents, or parents undertaking education or training in preparation for work. Jobcentre Plus childcare partnership managers will continue to work with the Children's Information Services provided by local authorities so that lone parents who require childcare to enable them to take up employment are able to find appropriate places.

Children: Learning Disability

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps the Government has taken to assist parents of children with learning difficulties since 1997; [164688]

(2) what steps the Government has taken to widen opportunities in education for children with learning difficulties since 1997. [164689]

Mr. Jim Cunningham *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* In 1997 the Government published their Green Paper "Excellence for all children: Meeting Special Educational Needs" which set out policies for working with parents and improving provision to meet children's special educational needs (SEN). In 1998 the Government set out a programme of action to implement the policies in the Green Paper over the following three years and in 2001 passed the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act and published a revised SEN Code of Practice. The Act strengthened the right of parents of children with SEN to have their children educated in mainstream schools if that is what they wanted; it laid duties on schools and local authorities not to discriminate against children with disabilities, including those with learning disabilities, to make reasonable adjustments to prevent such discrimination, and to plan to increase access to schools and the curriculum; and the Act obliged each local authority to have a parent partnership service for the parents of children with SEN in order to offer factual and unbiased advice on SEN provision and procedures.

Since 2004, through a range of initiatives, the Government have been implementing their SEN strategy "Removing Barriers to Achievement" which promoted earlier intervention, improvements to mainstream SEN provision so that a wider group of children can have their needs met effectively in mainstream schools, an enhanced role for special schools providing for children with severe and complex needs and working with mainstream schools to help other children with SEN reach their potential, improved SEN training for prospective and qualified teachers and improved partnership working between agencies to meet children's needs. In the past eight years, spending by local authorities on provision for children with SEN has risen from £2.8 billion in 2000-01 (the first year in which this figure was collected separately) to £4.9 billion in 2007-08.

Complementing the initiatives under these programmes and strategies, others have focused on disabled, including learning disabled, children and their parents. For example, the Early Support programme has promoted joint agency approaches to earlier identification and key workers to work with families to negotiate access to services and offer support. Early Support has also produced a range of support resources for parents. The programme is now being rolled out nationally.

Finally, "Aiming High for Disabled Children" (May 2007) announced £340 million of investment, including £280 million to improve the provision of short breaks for the families of disabled children, £5 million to encourage parents' participation in influencing the design and delivery of services and £19 million for a Transition Support Programme to help young people realise their ambitions in their transition to adult life.

Children: Protection

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information each local authority will be required to supply in order to comply with performance indicator 71 of the new indicator set for local authorities; what the reporting intervals will be against the indicator; what mechanism will be used to assess the performance of individual authorities; and what steps will be taken to address underperforming authorities. [167148]

Kevin Brennan: The indicator on children who have run away from home/care overnight will be measured from 2009-10. This will give us time to identify robust data collection methodologies. We are considering a number of different options to gather data on young runaways in connection with the new indicator, working closely with the other Government Departments, the police, local authorities and expert charitable organisations such as the Children's Society.

All top tier local authorities and their strategic partners will have to report back at least annually on their performance against all 198 cross-Government indicators in the new national set, which was published on 11 October 2007.

In addition, each area will agree with Government up to 35 improvement targets—plus the 16 statutory education and early years targets—drawn from indicators in the national set. Local areas may also set themselves an unlimited number of local targets which will not be subject to central performance monitoring and which need not be drawn from the national indicator set.

From 2009 performance against all 198 national indicators will be published each year by the Audit Commission, as part of the inspectorates' comprehensive area assessment of local authorities. This will also report on each local authority's direction of travel and use of resources and will assess risks in the area.

Children's Centres: Finance

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what discussions he has had with Kent county council on the ring-fencing of funding for Sure Starts and family centres; [166954]

(2) whether Kent county council is able to alter the funding arrangements for *(a)* existing and *(b)* future Sure Starts or family centres under the procedures for which his Department is responsible; [166955]

(3) whether the existing funding for Sure Start and family centre schemes in Kent is ring-fenced. [167040]

Beverley Hughes: The Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant (formerly the General Sure Start Grant) which my Department pays to all local authorities includes ringfenced revenue funding for Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs), including those that have since been designated as Sure Start Children's Centres. Kent county council, like all local authorities receiving this ringfenced funding, has freedom to determine the level of resource for each individual SSLP in its area from within its overall ring-fenced allocation for SSLPs to ensure the core children's centre services remain available to families in the area. My officials wrote to local authorities in August this year giving revenue allocations for children's centres and SSLPs for the next three financial years. The letter explained that the ringfenced funding must be used for

> "services in SSLPs, and centres based on SSLPs, and cannot be used for new children's centres".

I discussed funding levels for SSLPs with Kent county council and the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey in July in advance of these allocations being made.

The Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant also includes separate funding for existing and new children's centres to be developed by 2010. Kent county council is responsible, like all local authorities, for allocating resources to those children's centres not based on SSLPs to enable them to deliver mainstream children's services to meet local needs. We issued guidance earlier this month to support local authorities in allocating resources effectively "Sure Start Children's Centres : Planning and Delivering Phase 3" which is available on the Sure Start website www.surestart.gov.uk.

Departmental Stationary

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much letterheaded notepaper his Department has bought which is headed with both the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and Department for Children, Schools and Families headers; and at what cost. [166909]

Kevin Brennan: The number of letter headed note paper purchased for both Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Children, Schools and Families was 62 sheets and the total spend was £32 for the period 28 June 2007 to 20 November 2007.

Dyslexia

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of schools in identifying dyslexia. [163006]

Jim Knight: All local authorities, schools, and early years settings must have regard to the special educational needs code of practice which provides advice on carrying out statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for pupils' special educational needs. Children with dyslexia should therefore have their needs identified and support put in place to meet those needs in the same way as children with any other type of special educational need (SEN).

To help those working in schools to develop confidence in identifying and supporting children with dyslexia, we announced on 17 October the launch of the Inclusion Development Programme, which will offer professional development in key areas of SEN starting with training on communication difficulties, including dyslexia. The Inclusion Development Programme materials are being developed in close consultation with dyslexia organisations.

To identify and disseminate best practice in improving outcomes for children with dyslexia, we are working with the British Dyslexia Association, Dyslexia Action, Xtraordinary People and the Professional Association of Teachers of Students with Specific Learning Difficulties on the No to Failure Project. This project is supporting schools in three local authority areas to become project trailblazers, where children are being screened for dyslexia and individual specialist tuition is then provided to those who are identified as having dyslexia. The impact of this approach on outcomes is being evaluated. The project is also evaluating the impact of providing specialist dyslexia training for teachers, developing examples of good practice which can be extended nationally, and raising awareness of dyslexia as a learning difficulty. We are providing up to £900,000 funding over three years to support this project.

Early Years Framework

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with the Steiner Foundation on the Early Years Framework. [167405]

Beverley Hughes: The Steiner Waldorf Schools Association responded to our formal consultation on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) last year. Since then officials have had extensive discussions with representatives from the Steiner Waldorf Schools Association on how the EYFS can support Steiner early childhood best practice. They have also held a conference attended by representatives of most of the Steiner kindergartens at which they explained the Early Years Foundation Stage, listened to the concerns of those present and discussed how the aims of EYFS sit alongside those of the Steiner educational philosophy. The EYFS is a broad framework which does not prescribe any particular teaching approach and as such it has the flexibility to accommodate a wide range of philosophies and practices.

Foster Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what work Ofsted has undertaken in relation to the effectiveness of the collection by local authorities of information on private fostering in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [162961]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 19 November 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

In April 2006 the Commission for Social Care Inspection started a three-year programme of inspections of the way in which local authorities discharge their duties and functions in relation to private fostering. The new Ofsted assumed responsibility for this programme in April 2007 and is continuing to carry out these inspections.

CSCI collated the findings of the 50 inspections of private fostering arrangements which took place in the first year of inspection, from April 2006-March 2007. Ofsted will continue to produce collated findings, with the next review to be published after March 2008.

All councils have strategies in place to identify and meet the needs of privately fostered children. However, they are very variable in quality and councils are at very different stages in their implementation. Although the size and demography of councils will determine the likely incidence of private fostering, the figures set out below highlight the range of performance at the time of the inspections. The Office for National Statistics figures show that at 31 March 2007 there were 1,250 privately fostered children. British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) have estimated that there could be between 7,000 and 10,000 privately fostered children in England. All councils still face a significant challenge in implementing these arrangements.

i. 5 councils (10%) had comprehensive strategies and arrangements to identify and meet the needs of privately fostered children. They knew of over twenty privately fostered children in their areas and had taken appropriate action in relation to them. They recognised that there were other privately fostered children that they had yet to identify.

ii. 7 councils (14%) had made significant progress in implementing their strategies, and this has had some impact on notifications. All these councils knew of at least ten privately fostered children.

iii. In 27 councils (54%), there had not been a significant increase in notifications, with between 2 and 9 privately fostered children known in each of these areas. These councils will need to give priority to private fostering if they are to implement their plans effectively over the next year.

iv. 6 councils (12%) did not know of any privately fostered children in their areas and 5 councils (10%) knew of only 1. These councils need to give high priority to private fostering.

The best councils have improved the effectiveness of their private fostering arrangements by:

developing comprehensive strategies for identifying and meeting the needs of privately fostered children

involving all agencies through the children's trust arrangements and the Local Safeguarding Children Board, particularly universal services

identifying a senior officer to be responsible for this area of work

establishing and publicised clear notification, assessment and approval processes designed to assess private foster carers' suitability to meet children's needs

developing publicity and information to inform families, children and the public at large about private fostering

All Local Safeguarding Children Boards are responsible for monitoring arrangements for ensuring the safety of privately fostered children. Joint Area Reviews, a cross-inspectorate programme to review children's services in an area, always consider safeguarding as a core investigation. As part of this they report on how well private foster carers are identified, monitored and supported in developing and maintaining positive relationships with their children. This allows inspectors to examine whether or not procedures are in place, and how effective they are in identifying privately fostered children in an area. The findings from Joint Area Reviews mirror the findings outlined above. Most councils have developed procedures and have produced information to raise awareness in partner agencies and the public at large. However the impact of this in identifying privately fostered children has been slow.

Inspections therefore have shown that local councils have been slow to implement private fostering arrangements. Greater progress is needed in ensuring that private fostering arrangements have been effectively implemented and safeguards for these potentially vulnerable children have been improved.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained secondary schools did not have specialist status as at 1 October 2007; what the average level of free school meal eligibility of those schools was; and if he will make a statement. [166688]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the table and represents the situation as at January 2007.

Maintained secondary schools[1]: school meal arrangements by specialist status[2], as at January 2007, England

	Maintained secondary schools		
	Schools with specialist status	*Other schools*	*Total maintained secondary schools*
Number of schools	2,606	737	3,343
Number of pupils	2,782,090	490,390	3,272,480
Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	344,870	84,830	429,700
Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	12.4	17.3	13.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes pupils with sole and dual main registration.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census.

GCE A-level

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in each school in Southend took A-levels in each of the last two years for which information is available, broken down by subject. [167390]

Jim Knight: The information required is listed in the following tables.

The data for 2006/07 are not published and so figures for 2004/05 and 2005/06 have been provided. The data for 2006/07 will be published in mid January 2008 once schools have had the opportunity to amend their results as part of the data checking process.

Number of pupils in schools/colleges in Southend taking GCE A levels by subject, 2005-06

	2006							
School/college name	*Biological sciences*	*Chemistry*	*Physics*	*Other science*	*Mathematics*	*Further mathematics*	*Design and technology*	*Computer studies*
Shoeburyness High School	2	1	5	0	4	0	0	0
Westcliff High School for Boys	35	41	23	4	42	7	0	0
The Eastwood School (11-18)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Westcliff High School for Girls	42	45	17	0	48	7	10	0
Southend High School for Girls	25	24	8	0	16	2	16	0
Belfairs High School	4	3	2	0	3	2	0	0
Southend High School for Boys	12	20	16	0	15	1	12	13

Number of pupils in schools/colleges in Southend taking GCE A levels by subject, 2005-06

2006

School/college name	Biological sciences	Chemistry	Physics	Other science	Mathematics	Further mathematics	Design and technology	Computer studies
St. Thomas More High School for Boys	14	3	5	6	19	4	9	7
Cecil Jones College	3	0	4	0	3	0	0	3
St Bernard's High School and Arts College	15	11	2	0	3	0	13	0
South East Essex College of Arts and Technology	3	3	3	0	5	0	0	0

School/College name	ICT	Accounting and Finance	Business Studies	Economics	Geography	Government and politics	History	Law
Shoeburyness High School	2	0	0	3	3	0	4	0
Westcliff High School for Boys	4	0	0	32	16	8	31	0
The Eastwood School (11-18)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Westcliffe High School for Girls	23	0	6	0	21	18	24	0
Southend High School for Girls	9	0	27	0	24	25	25	0
Belfairs High School	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	0
Southend High School for Boys	0	0	19	8	18	19	34	0
St. Thomas More High School for Boys	0	0	0	5	21	0	12	14
Cecil Jones College	0	0	0	5	3	0	7	0
St. Bernard's High School and Arts College	0	0	8	0	3	0	10	0
South East Essex College of Arts and Technology	10	5	16	0	3	0	9	21

School/college name	Psychology	Sociology	Other social studies	Art and design	Drama	English	Media/film/ television studies	Other communication studies
Shoeburyness High School	6	9	0	5	17	15	8	6
Westcliff High School for Boys	27	0	0	6	0	39	0	0
The Eastwood School (11-18)	0	6	0	0	14	0	0	0
Westcliff High School for Girls	33	0	0	14	10	51	0	0
Southend High School for Girls	10	21	1	12	0	46	12	0
Belfairs High School	4	0	0	9	0	5	0	0
Southend High School for Boys	12	0	0	8	12	42	0	0
St. Thomas More High School for Boys	15	1	0	9	0	14	11	0

School/college name	Psychology	Sociology	Other social studies	Art and design	Drama	English	Media/film/ television studies	Other communication studies
Cecil Jones College	3	9	0	9	5	13	0	0
St. Bernard's High School and Arts College	21	13	0	12	0	23	10	5
South East Essex College of Arts and Technology	28	19	3	26	0	43	21	16

School/college name	French	German	Spanish	Other modern languages	Religious studies	Music	Physical education	General studies
Shoeburyness High School	1	0	0	0	0	7	6	0
Westcliff High School for Boys	9	7	0	0	5	5	14	112
The Eastwood School (11-18)	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0
Westcliff High School for Girls	8	4	0	0	22	8	0	4
Southend High school for Girls	9	5	0	2	10	5	0	109
Belfairs High School	0	0	0	0	4	12	1	0
Southend High School for Boys	16	5	4	0	18	8	7	102
St. Thomas More High School for Boys	3	0	1	0	4	1	3	62
Cecil Jones College	4	0	0	1	6	0	2	0
St. Bernard's High School and Arts College	2	3	0	3	24	3	7	0
South East Essex College of Arts and Technology	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	22

2005

School/college name	Biological sciences	Chemistry	Physics	Other science	Mathematics	Further mathematics	Design and technology	Computer studies
Shoeburyness High School	3	2	2	0	2	0	6	0
Westcliff High School for Boys	21	30	19	6	43	5	0	0
The Eastwood School (11-18)	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Westcliff High School for Girls	33	35	21	0	43	6	24	0
Southend High School for Girls	37	23	11	0	21	4	8	0
Belfairs High School	5	2	3	0	2	0	0	0
Southend High School for Boys	10	21	28	0	27	0	11	13
St Thomas More High School for Boys	18	1	9	0	17	0	2	6
Cecil Jones College	5	4	3	0	4	1	2	0

	2005							
School/college name	Biological sciences	Chemistry	Physics	Other science	Mathematics	Further mathematics	Design and technology	Computer studies
St Bernard's High School and Arts College	8	4	1	0	2	0	5	0
South East Essex College of Arts and Technology	7	6	5	0	13	0	3	0

	2005							
School/College name	ICT	Accounting and Finance	Business Studies	Economics	Geography	Government and politics	History	Law
Shoeburyness High School	5	0	0	4	4	0	4	0
Westcliff High School for Boys	7	0	0	36	32	9	35	0
The Eastwood School (11-18)	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0
Westcliffe High School for Girls	25	0	7	8	10	21	30	0
Southend High School for Girls	9	0	27	0	31	13	25	0
Belfairs High School	1	0	0	0	4	0	3	0
Southend High School for Boys	0	0	16	21	23	23	38	0
St. Thomas More High School for Boys	0	0	0	9	31	0	18	4
Cecil Jones College	0	0	5	0	3	0	5	0
St. Bernard's High School and Arts College	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	0
South East Essex College of Arts and Technology	12	4	13	0	13	0	8	24

School/college name	Psychology	Sociology	Other social studies	Art and design	Drama	English	Media/film/ television studies	Other communication studies
Shoeburyness High School	3	5	0	13	8	12	3	7
Westcliff High School for Boys	17	0	0	8	0	30	0	0
The Eastwood School (11-18)	0	2	0	0	13	5	0	2
Westcliff High School for Girls	41	0	0	25	16	46	0	0
Southend High School for Girls	18	13	0	9	0	43	14	0
Belfairs High School	6	0	0	14	0	7	0	0
Southend High School for Boys	0	0	0	12	8	28	0	0
St. Thomas More High School for Boys	21	0	0	8	0	25	9	0
Cecil Jones College	3	9	0	5	1	8	1	0
St. Bernard's High School and Arts College	20	11	0	5	0	11	13	3
South East Essex College of Arts and Technology	21	22	2	35	0	40	18	30

School/college name	French	German	Spanish	Other modern languages	Religious studies	Music	Physical education	General studies
Shoeburyness High School	0	0	0	0	0	10	7	0
Westcliff High School for Boys	12	4	0	1	7	1	19	108
The Eastwood School (11-18)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Westcliff High School for Girls	4	5	0	0	27	2	4	12
Southend High school for Girls	14	5	0	1	8	7	0	110
Belfairs High School	0	0	0	0	5	19	5	1
Southend High School for Boys	13	1	0	0	9	6	0	102
St. Thomas More High School for Boys	1	0	0	3	5	0	5	78
Cecil Jones College	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
St. Bernard's High School and Arts College	1	0	0	0	9	0	0	0
South East Essex College of Arts and Technology	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	39

Number of pupils in Schools/Colleges in Southend taking VCE A levels by subject

2006

	Applied art and design	Applied business	Applied engineering	Applied ICT	Media	Performing arts	Travel and tourism
Shoeburyness High School	0	11	0	0	0	0	7
The Eastwood School (11-18)	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Belfairs High School	0	2	6	8	11	2	0
St. Thomas More High School for Boys	0	0	0	5	4	0	0
Cecil Jones College	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
St. Bernard's High School and Arts College	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
South East Essex College of Arts and Technology	1	7	0	15	12	0	0

2005

	Applied art and design	Applied business	Health and social care	Applied engineering	Applied ICT	Media	Retail and distribution	Performing arts	Travel and tourism
Shoeburyness High School	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
The Eastwood School (11-18)	0	3	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Belfairs High School	0	2	12	9	6	10	0	3	0
St. Thomas More High School for Boys	0	0	0	0	9	4	0	0	0
Cecil Jones College	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
St. Bernard's High School and Arts College	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0

	2005								
	Applied art and design	*Applied business*	*Health and social care*	*Applied engineering*	*Applied ICT*	*Media*	*Retail and distribution*	*Performing arts*	*Travel and tourism*
South East Essex College of Arts and Technology	0	7	0	0	7	12	8	0	1

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Chemistry

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students took GCSE examinations in chemistry in *(a)* 1990, *(b)* 1995, *(c)* 2000, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2007 to date; and how many gained A to C grades in the same years. [166747]

Jim Knight: The information required is in the table as follows:

	Number of pupils entered for GCSE Chemistry	*Percentage pupils entered for GCSE Chemistry*	*Number achieving grades A*-C*	*Percentage achieving grades A*-C*
2007	50,635	7.7	46,225	91.3
2005	45,144	7.1	41,102	91.0
2000	37,699	6.5	33,904	89.9
1995	33,598	5.8	29,397	87.5

Note:
Data for 1990 are not available

Figures from 2006/07 are provisional. Schools will get the opportunity to amend their results as part of the data checking process before the revised figures are published in January 2008.

Figures relate to the achievements of pupils who were 15-years-old at the start of the school year, i.e. 31 August.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Gender

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the gap between girls' and boys' performance in GCSE examinations; and if he will make a statement. [166619]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for East Dunbartonshire (Jo Swinson) on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 870W.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils achieved five or more A* to C GCSEs *(a)* in all subjects and *(b)* including mathematics and English in (i) each local authority area and (ii) England in each year from 1997-98 to 2006-07; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent expected figures in 2007-08. [166338]

Jim Knight: The relevant figures are provided in the time series which have been placed in the Library.

We cannot provide an expected figure for 2007-08.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils *(a)* from each ethnic group, *(b)* entitled to free school meals and *(c)* with English as a second language achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C in each year from 1997 to 2007; and if he will make a statement. [166689]

Jim Knight: The available data are shown in the following tables. Data prior to 2002 are not available and 2007 data will not be available until 27 November. They will be published on the Department's website at: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000759/index.shtml

Achievements at GCSE and equivalents, 2002-06 by ethnicity and gender

		5+ A-C*				*5+ A*-C inc E and M*			*Any passes*			
		2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2005*	*2006*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Boys													
	White	44.3	46.2	47.4	50.3	53.0	39.0	40.5	932	93.7	95.5	96.2	96.8
	White British	—	46.1	47.3	50.2	52.9	38 9	40.4	—	93.8	95.6	96.2	96.8
	Irish	—	58.4	54.0	59.4	57.2	47.2	46.3	—	95.1	95.6	96.0	95.7
	Traveller of Irish Heritage	—	43.3	23.3	22.9	14.0	22.9	7.0	—	82.5	76.7	60.4	71.9
	Gypsy/Roma	—	24.4	150	7.9	9.3	6.3	2.3	—	78.9	74.0	74.6	77.9
	Any other white background	—	46.3	49.3	54.2	55.0	42.1	42.4	—	90.3	93.5	96.7	96.9
	Mixed	—	42.7	44.8	490	50.7	37.3	38.7	—	92.4	94.1	95.4	96.5
	White and Black Caribbean	—	32.3	34.1	37.6	39.9	25.8	27.5	—	92.4	92.9	94.3	95.5
	White and Black African	—	39.5	43.5	48.4	51.8	35.0	38.7	—	90.5	93.1	96.0	97.0

Achievements at GCSE and equivalents, 2002-06 by ethnicity and gender

		5+ A*-C				5+ A*-C inc E and M		Any passes				
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2005	2006	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	White and Asian	—	60.6	61.4	64.2	65.6	53.6	56.1	—	95.9	96.2	96.9	97.8
	Any other mixed background	—	44.9	47.1	52.6	54.0	40.8	41.3	—	91.1	94.4	95.5	96.6
	Asian	—	47.1	49.4	53.4	55.5	39.8	41.4	—	95.5	96.8	98.1	97.9
	Indian	56.9	60.3	61.6	64.8	67.1	52.4	54.3	97.1	97.3	98.0	98.9	98.9
	Pakistani	32.6	35.7	38.8	43.2	45.4	28.8	30.6	93.4	94.3	96.4	97.5	97.6
	Bangladeshi	38.0	38.5	41.0	46.7	50.9	31.0	35.4	92.2	94.6	96.5	97.5	97.6
	Any other Asian background	—	53.8	54.8	59.0	57.8	46.6	43.7	—	94.1	94.6	98.2	96.4
	Black	—	29.1	31.9	37.7	41.0	25.2	27.4	—	91.6	94.1	96.6	96.8
	Black Caribbean	21.9	25.1	27.3	33.3	36.5	21.2	22.7	90.3	91.6	94.2	95.7	96.3
	Black African	31.0	34.1	37.3	42.9	45.2	29.7	31.7	90.2	91.9	94.3	978	97.4
	Any other black background	27.6	27.2	29.8	33.7	39.4	22.2	25.0	89.2	91.1	93.1	95.3	95.8
	Chinese	66.8	70.9	69.5	77.1	75.5	62.8	59.7	93.9	95.3	95.4	98.7	99.2
	Any other ethnic group	40.0	41,3	430	49.3	51.0	36.3	37.3	89.4	88.5	91.5	96.5	96.2
	Unclassified	45.1	43.1	42.7	44.8	47.5	34.0	35.8	91.7	91.4	93.9	95.3	95.3
	All pupils	43.7	45.5	46.8	49.9	52.6	38.4	39.9	93.1	93.5	95.4	96.3	96.8
Girls													
	White	55.0	56.7	57.4	60.2	62.3	47.1	48.5	95.1	95.7	96.9	97.4	97.8
	White British	—	56.6	57.3	60.1	622	47.0	484	—	95.8	96.9	97.4	97.8
	Irish	—	61.8	62.5	65.8	65.0	54.1	53.6	—	96.3	96.8	97.1	97.4
	Traveller of Irish Heritage	—	39.1	39.7	22.2	23.2	19.0	14.5	—	82.8	82.5	76.2	81.2
	Gypsy/Roma	—	22.5	12.7	20.0	11.8	11.3	5.9	—	78.3	81.3	80.0	79.4
	Any other white background	—	58.2	61.3	63.7	65.3	50.4	51.3	—	93.7	95.9	97.7	98.0
	Mixed	—	55.4	54.4	59.9	61.2	46.2	46.8	—	94.9	95.9	97.3	97.4
	White and Black Caribbean	—	46.8	449	50.0	54.2	34.8	37.4	—	94.4	95.3	96.2	97.0
	White and Black African	—	55.1	51	62.1	61.5	46.2	47.3	—	92.7	93.8	97.8	969
	White and Asian	—	68.6	69.9	70.6	72.1	59.6	62.6	—	96.4	97.2	98.6	97.8
	Any other mixed background	—	57.7	57.1	64.2	63.3	51.1	49.1	—	95.1	962	977	97.7
	Asian	—	59	61.4	64.3	66.9	48.4	51.1	—	96.9	98	98.7	98.9
	Indian	68.8	70.3	71.9	75.8	76.6	62.8	64.3	97.6	98.1	988	99.3	99.4
	Pakistani	44.9	48.1	52.1	54.1	57.9	36.5	39.0	95.3	96.4	97.7	98.2	98.3
	Bangladeshi	49.0	526	55.2	585	62.2	37.9	42.4	95.1	96.4	97.8	99.0	99.4
	Any other Asian background	—	64.6	65.9	69.2	72.4	55.6	60.7	—	94	96.1	97.7	98.6
	Black	—	43.1	45.9	51.4	55.1	36.0	39.8	—	94	96	981	98.2
	Black Caribbean	368	403	43.8	49.4	52.9	32.5	36.0	946	957	96.9	98.4	98.5
	Black African	43.7	46.8	48.9	53.3	56.7	39.8	43.3	91.8	92.2	95.2	98.1	98.2
	Any other black background	425	40.3	43	50.8	55.7	33.5	38.1	93.6	94	95.5	96.7	97.1
	Chinese	73.5	79.2	79.1	85.1	84.8	75.2	72.2	95.6	96.1	96.9	99.4	98.9

Achievements at GCSE and equivalents, 2002-06 by ethnicity and gender

		5+ A*-C					5+ A*-C inc E and M		Any passes				
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2005	2006	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Any other ethnic group	54.1	51.2	54.4	59.1	62.3	44.8	46.7	92.4	91.4	93.9	972	973
	Unclassified	55.4	52.2	52	54.7	57.1	42.6	43.1	94.2	93.4	95.4	96.7	97.1
	All pupils	54.6	56.1	57	60.0	62.2	46.7	48.2	95.0	956	96.8	97.5	97.9
Total													
	White	49.5	51.3	52.3	55.1	57.5	43.0	44.4	942	94.7	96.2	96.8	97.3
	White British	—	51.3	52.3	55.0	57.5	42.9	44.3	—	94.7	96.2	96.8	97.3
	Irish	—	60.1	58.3	62.6	61.3	50.7	50.1	—	95.7	96.2	96.6	96.6
	Traveller of Irish Heritage	—	41.6	30.2	225	19.0	20.7	11.1	—	82.6	79.2	69.4	77.0
	Gypsy/Roma	—	23.2	13.5	14.7	10.4	9.1	3.9	—	78.5	78.6	77.6	78.6
	Any other white background	—	52	55	58.9	60.1	462	46.8	—	91.9	946	97.2	97.5
	Mixed	—	49.3	49.7	54.6	56.1	41.9	42.8	—	93.7	95	96.4	96.9
	White and Black Caribbean	—	39 9	397	44.1	47.3	30.5	32.6	—	93.4	94.2	95.3	96.3
	White and Black African	—	47.5	47.1	55.5	56.8	40.8	43.1	—	91.6	93.5	97.0	96.9
	White and Asian	—	64.7	65.7	67.4	68.9	56.6	59.4	—	96.2	96.7	97.7	97.8
	Any other mixed background	—	51.6	52.3	58.6	58.7	46.1	45.2	—	932	95.3	96.7	97.2
	Asian	—	52.8	55.3	58.7	61.0	44.0	46.1	—	96.2	97.4	98.4	98.4
	Indian	62.6	65.2	66.6	70.1	71.7	574	59.1	97.4	97.7	98.4	99.1	99.1
	Pakistani	38.5	41.5	45.2	48.4	51.4	32.5	34.6	94.3	95.3	97	978	97.9
	Bangladeshi	43.3	45.5	484	52.7	56.6	34.5	39.0	93.6	955	97.2	98.3	98.6
	Any other Asian background	—	59	60	63.8	646	50.8	51.6	—	94	95.3	98.0	97.4
	Black	—	36.3	39	44.7	48.1	30.7	33.6	—	92.9	951	973	97.5
	Black Caribbean	29.2	329	35.7	41.7	44.9	27.1	29.5	92.4	937	956	97.1	97.4
	Black African	37.4	40.7	43.3	48.3	51.0	35.0	37.5	91.0	92	94.8	97.9	978
	Any other black background	35.2	33.6	362	41.7	47.1	27.5	31 2	91.4	92.5	943	95.9	96.4
	Chinese	70.1	74.8	74.2	81.0	80.0	68.8	65.8	94.7	95.7	96.1	99.0	99.1
	Any other ethnic group	46.8	45.8	48.4	54.0	56.3	40.3	41.7	90.9	89.8	926	96.9	96.7
	Unclassified	502	47.4	47 1	49.6	52.1	38.2	39.3	93.0	923	94.6	96.0	96.2
	All pupils	49.0	507	51.9	54.9	57.3	42 5	44.0	94.0	94.5	96.1	96.9	97.3

Sources:
2002 http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000448/index.shtml
2003 http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000448/index.shtml
2004 http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000564/index.shtml
2005 http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000640/index.shtml
2006 http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000708/index.shtml

Achievements at GCSE and equivalents, 2002-06 by free school meal eligibility and gender

		5+ A*-C					5+ A*-C inc. E and M		Any passes				
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2005	2006	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Boys													
	FSM	18.8	20.4	22.1	25.5	28.7	15.2	16.8	85.2	85.7	89.8	91.2	92.7
	Non-FSM	48.2	49.9	50.8	53.8	56.2	42.1	43.4	94.9	95.2	96.4	97.1	97.5
	Unclassified	11.9	0.2	35.4	39.0	42.3	28.2	31.3	38.5	6.8	85.5	91.8	93.2
	All pupils	43.7	45.5	46.8	49.9	52.6	38.4	39.9	93.1	93.5	95.4	96.3	96.8

Achievements at GCSE and equivalents, 2002-06 by free school meal eligibility and gender

		5+ A*-C					5+ A*-C inc. E and M		Any passes				
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2005	2006	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Girls													
	FSM	27.3	28.5	30.2	34.4	37.4	20.8	22.5	89.3	89.9	92.7	93.8	95.0
	Non-FSM	59.3	60.8	61.4	64.2	66.0	50.9	52.1	96.1	96.6	97.5	98.1	98.3
	Unclassified	17.5	0.0	48.5	45.8	47.7	34.3	35.3	46.8	6.4	97.6	94.6	94.1
	All pupils	54.6	56.1	57.0	60.0	62.2	46.7	48.2	95.0	95.6	96.8	97.5	97.9
Total													
	FSM	23.0	24.4	26.1	29.9	33.0	18.0	19.6	87.2	87.8	91.2	92.5	93.8
	Non-FSM	53.7	55.2	56.1	58.9	61.0	46.4	47.7	95.5	95.9	96.9	97.6	97.9
	Unclassified	13.1	0.1	41.1	42.3	44.8	31.2	33.2	40.4	6.7	90.8	93.2	93.7
	All pupils	49.0	50.7	51.9	54.9	57.3	42.5	44.0	94.0	94.5	96.1	96.9	97.3

Sources:
2002 http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000448/index.shtml
2003 http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000448/index.shtml
2004 http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000564/index.shtml
2005 http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000640/index.shtml
2006 http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000708/index.shtml

Achievements at GCSE and equivalents, 2002-06 by first language and gender

		5+ A*-C					5+ A*-C inc. E and M		Any passes				
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2005	2006	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Boys													
	English	44.3	46.0	47.0	50.0	52.7	38.7	40.3	93.5	93.9	95.5	96.2	96.8
	Other than English	40.1	42.5	45.0	49.8	51.3	36.1	37.0	92.7	93.2	95.3	97.6	97.5
	Unclassified	6.0	3.7	39.0	40.0	44.8	28.0	33.0	29.1	14.1	89.6	92.4	93.7
	All pupils	43.7	45.5	46.8	49.9	52.6	38.4	39.9	93.1	93.5	95.4	96.3	96.8
Girls													
	English	55.0	56.4	57.1	60.1	62.3	46.9	48.4	95.2	95.7	96.8	97.4	97.8
	Other than English	51.8	53.9	56.7	60.0	62.3	44.7	46.7	94.6	95.2	96.8	98.4	98.4
	Unclassified	18.1	34.4	46.0	45.0	45.1	33.4	33.7	49.6	55.9	96.7	94.6	94.1
	All pupils	54.6	56.1	57.0	60.0	62.2	46.7	48.2	95.0	95.6	96.8	97.5	97.9
Total													
	English	49.5	51.1	52.0	55.0	57.4	42.8	44.3	94.3	94.8	96.1	96.8	97.3
	Other than English	45.8	48.0	50.7	54.8	56.7	40.3	41.7	93.6	94.2	96.0	98.0	97.9
	Unclassified	8.8	14.1	41.8	42.4	44.9	30.6	33.3	33.8	28.2	92.5	93.5	93.9
	All pupils	49.0	50.7	51.9	54.9	57.3	42.5	44.0	94.0	94.5	96.1	96.9	97.3

Sources:
2002 http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000448/index.shtmf
2003 http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000448/index.shtml
2004 http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000564/index.shtml
2005 http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000640/index.shtml
2006 http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000708/index.shtml

Gifted Children

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of how long it will take for one million children to benefit from the gifted and talented programme; and if he will make a statement. [164760]

Jim Knight: The national gifted and talented programme is designed to meet the needs of all children and young people identified as gifted and talented by their schools. Currently some 91 per cent. of secondary schools and 65 per cent. of primary schools are identifying about 733,000 gifted and talented learners. We want all schools to identify their gifted and talented pupils now, so giving a national population of around one million. We want all to join the new Young Gifted and Talented Learner Academy (YG&T). Every school should already have access to an identified leading teacher for gifted and talented, a lead professional responsible for securing high quality personalised learning and support.

Head Teachers: Retirement

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of head teachers in England were within *(a)* one year, *(b)* two years, *(c)* three years, *(d)* five years and *(e)* 10 years of normal pension age at the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [166702]

Jim Knight: The normal pension age (NPA) of teachers who entered service before 1 January 2007 is 60. Entrants to the profession from that date have a NPA of 65. NPA is the age at which members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme can retire without any actuarial reduction to their pension benefits.

The following table provides the percentage of full-time head teachers in service in the maintained schools sector in England within one year, two years, three years, five years and 10 years of the NPA 60, in March 2005, the latest information available.

Full-time head teachers in maintained sector schools in England, percentage in service by number of years before the normal pension age (60), March 2006 (provisional)

Years before NPA	*Percentage of head teachers*[1]
1	3.0
2	7.2
3	12.3
5	25.0
10	57.8

[1] Percentages are cumulative.

Note:
Reforms of the Teachers' Pension Scheme that were introduced in January 2007—and which include a NPA of 65 for new entrants—included new provisions that are specifically aimed at encouraging teachers to extend their working lives. These new provisions will provide a real and attractive alternative to teachers' traditional approach to retirement.

Source:
Database of Teacher Records

Head Teachers: Vacancies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the most recent vacancy rates were for *(a)* head teachers and *(b)* teachers in each local authority area; and if he will make a statement. [166622]

Jim Knight: The following table provides local authority maintained schools regular full-time teacher and head teacher vacancy rates in each local authority area, in January 2007. Rates for individual local authorities, particularly for head teachers, are based on small numbers and may vary considerably from year to year.

Full-time regular teachers and head teacher vacancy rates[1] in local authority maintained schools by, local authority and Government office region in England: January 2007

	Local authority maintained full-time vacancy rates[2]	
	Teacher vacancy rate (percentage)	*Head teacher vacancy rate (percentage)*
Gateshead	0.1	0.0
Newcastle upon Tyne	0.7	0.0
North Tyneside	0.2	0.0
South Tyneside	0.7	0.0
Sunderland	0.4	0.0
Hartlepool	1.3	0.0
Middlesbrough	0.7	0.0
Redcar and Cleveland	1.8	0.0
Stockton on Tees	0.8	0.0
Darlington	0.3	0.0
Durham	1.1	1.0
Northumberland	0.0	0.0
North East	0.4	0.0
Cumbria	0.1	0.0
Cheshire	0.4	0.6
Halton	0.3	0.0
Warrington	0.0	0.0
Bolton	0.0	0.0
Bury	0.2	1.2
Manchester	0.0	0.0
Oldham	0.3	0.0
Rochdale	0.9	3.2
Salford	0.5	2.0
Stockport	0.4	1.6
Tameside	0.4	0.0
Trafford	0.7	0.0
Wigan	0.4	1.5
Lancashire	0.3	0.8
Blackburn with Darwen	0.3	0.0
Blackpool	0.5	0.0
Knowsley	0.6	0.0
Liverpool	0.5	0.5
St. Helens	0.1	0.0
Sefton	0.0	0.0
Wirral	0.0	0.0
North West	0.3	0.6
Kingston-Upon-Hull, City of	0.6	0.0
East Riding of Yorkshire	0.2	0.0
North East Lincolnshire	0.8	2.8
North Lincolnshire	1.1	2.5
North Yorkshire	0.2	0.3
York	0.1	0.0
Barnsley	1.0	2.1
Doncaster	0.9	0.0
Rotherham	0.5	1.6
Sheffield	0.7	0.0
Bradford	1.5	0.9
Calderdale	0.2	0.0
Kirklees	0.2	0.0
Leeds	0.0	0.0
Wakefield	0.1	0.0

Full-time regular teachers and head teacher vacancy rates[1] in local authority maintained schools by, local authority and Government office region in England: January 2007

	Local authority maintained full-time vacancy rates[2]	
	Teacher vacancy rate (percentage)	*Head teacher vacancy rate (percentage)*
Yorkshire and the Humber	0.5	0.5
Derbyshire	0.5	0.9
Derby	0.4	0.0
Leicestershire	0.4	0.0
Leicester	0.4	1.0
Rutland	0.4	0.0
Lincolnshire	0.2	0.6
Northamptonshire	0.5	2.8
Nottinghamshire	0.0	0.0
Nottingham	0.7	1.7
East Midlands	0.3	0.9
Herefordshire	0.0	0.0
Worcestershire	0.6	0.0
Shropshire	0.1	0.0
Telford and Wrekin	0.0	0.0
Staffordshire	0.4	0.0
Stoke-on-Trent	0.5	1.0
Warwickshire	0.4	0.0
Birmingham	0.9	1.7
Coventry	0.6	0.9
Dudley	0.7	0.0
Sandwell	0.1	0.0
Solihull	1.0	0.0
Walsall	0.3	0.9
Wolverhampton	1.4	6.3
West Midlands	0.6	0.7
Cambridgeshire	0.5	0.4
Peterborough	0.1	0.0
Norfolk	1.0	0.9
Suffolk	0.8	0.9
Bedfordshire	0.7	1.5
Luton	1.9	0.0
Essex	0.4	0.0
Southend-on-Sea	1.3	0.0
Thurrock	1.1	0.0
Hertfordshire	0.8	0.4
East of England	0.7	0.5
City of London	0.0	0.0
Camden	0.2	0.0
Greenwich	1.2	1.2
Hackney	1.2	0.0
Hammersmith and Fulham	1.5	0.0
Islington	2.5	0.0
Kensington and Chelsea	1.7	2.9
Lambeth	1.8	1.3
Lewisham	0.9	0.0
Southwark	0.0	0.0
Tower Hamlets	0.9	0.0
Wandsworth	1.9	2.4
Westminster	2.7	1.9

Full-time regular teachers and head teacher vacancy rates[1] in local authority maintained schools by, local authority and Government office region in England: January 2007

	Local authority maintained full-time vacancy rates[2]	
	Teacher vacancy rate (percentage)	*Head teacher vacancy rate (percentage)*
Barking and Dagenham	1.4	0.0
Barnet	0.2	0.0
Bexley	0.8	0.0
Brent	1.2	2.5
Bromley	0.0	0.0
Croydon	0.8	1.7
Ealing	0.8	0.0
Enfield	0.6	0.0
Haringey	1.9	2.7
Harrow	0.3	0.0
Havering	0.5	2.4
Hillingdon	1.1	0.0
Hounslow	1.0	0.0
Kingston upon Thames	0.8	0.0
Merton	1.1	0.0
Newham	1.7	1.1
Redbridge	0.5	0.0
Richmond upon Thames	2.0	4.3
Sutton	0.9	16
Waltham Forest	1.6	2.6
London	1.0	0.8
Bracknell Forest	0.6	0.0
Windsor and Maidenhead	0.6	0.0
West Berkshire	0.7	1.3
Reading	0.6	0.0
Slough	1.6	2.2
Wokingham	0.4	0.0
Buckinghamshire	0.9	0.4
Milton Keynes	0.7	0.0
East Sussex	0.5	1.5
Brighton and Hove	0.3	0.0
Hampshire	0.4	0.2
Portsmouth	0.8	0.0
Southampton	0.7	0.0
Isle of Wight	0.9	0.0
Kent	0.7	1.2
Medway	0.8	0.0
Oxfordshire	0.9	1.7
Surrey	0.6	0.5
West Sussex	0.5	0.7
South East	0.6	0.7
Isles of Scilly	0.0	0.0
Bath and North East Somerset	0.2	0.0
City of Bristol	0.5	0.0
North Somerset	0.1	0.0
South Gloucestershire	0.1	0.0
Cornwall	0.1	0.0
Devon	0.2	0.0
Plymouth	0.1	0.0
Torbay	0.3	0.0

Full-time regular teachers and head teacher vacancy rates[1] in local authority maintained schools by, local authority and Government office region in England: January 2007

	Local authority maintained full-time vacancy rates[2]	
	Teacher vacancy rate (percentage)	Head teacher vacancy rate (percentage)
Dorset	0.2	0.6
Poole	0.3	0.0
Bournemouth	0.0	0.0
Gloucestershire	0.5	1.7
Somerset	0.2	0.4
Wiltshire	0.2	0.4
Swindon	0.9	0.0
South West	0.3	0.3
England	0.6	0.6

[1] Vacancies as a percentage of teachers in post i.e. full-time regular teachers in (or on secondment from) maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, plus full-time regular divided service, peripatetic, advisory and miscellaneous teachers.
[2] Advertised vacancies for full-time permanent appointments (or appointments of at least one term's duration). Includes vacancies being filled on a temporary basis of less than one term.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because of rounding.
Source:
618g survey

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the timescale is for the National Council for Educational Excellence inquiry into university applications. [164759]

Jim Knight: We are currently working to establish a terms of reference and timescale with the Department for Innovations, Universities and Skills and the Sutton Trust for this particular piece of work. The National Council for Educational Excellence will be discussing the recommendations from each of its mobilisation strands at its spring 2008 meeting and will hope to include outcomes from this work.

Intensive Family Support Schemes

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have established support schemes as part of the proposed national network of intensive family support schemes; and if he will make a statement. [167543]

Beverley Hughes: The list of areas which have established a family intervention project to provide intensive support to families, has been in the public domain since the launch in April 2007. These areas are as follows.

Barnsley
Birmingham
Blackburn
Blackpool
Bolton
Bournemouth
Bradford
Brighton
Bristol
Burnley
Camden
Coventry
Darlington
Derby
Doncaster
Exeter
Gloucester
Hackney
Harlow
Hartlepool
Hastings
Ipswich
Kingston Upon Hull
Kirklees
Knowsley
Lambeth
Leeds
Leicester
Liverpool
Manchester
Mansfield
Middlesbrough
Newcastle upon Tyne
Newham
Nottingham
Plymouth
Rochdale
Sandwell
South Tyneside
Newham
Nottingham
Plymouth
Rochdale
Sandwell
Norwich
Oldham
Portsmouth
Salford
Sheffield
Southampton
Southend-on-Sea
Southwark
Stoke
Sunderland
Tower Hamlets
Wakefield
Westminster
Wirral

Literacy: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of changes in reading standards in primary schools since 1977; and if he will make a statement. [166685]

Jim Knight: In 1996, the National Foundation for Educational Research found that there had been little or no improvement in literacy standards for most of the period since the second world war. Improving standards of literacy at all stages of education has therefore been one of this Government's top priorities. Primary literacy standards as measured by the results of national curriculum tests are now at their highest levels ever. No Government have achieved the sustained improvements in primary results that we have.

Since the introduction of national curriculum tests in 1995, results in English have improved significantly. Today, four out of five 11-year-olds are reaching the target level 4 compared with under half in 1995.

Proportion of pupils achieving level 4+ in English

	Level 4+	*Level 5*
1995	49	7
1996	57	12
1997	63	16
1998	65	17
1999	71	22
2000	75	29
2001	75	29
2002	75	29
2003	75	27
2004	78	27
2005	79	27
2006	79	32
2007[1]	80	33

[1] Provisional data.

Results in reading were not reported separately before 1997. Since 1997, we have also seen dramatic improvements in the proportion achieving level 4 and above. In 2007, a third of 11-year-olds achieved the higher level 5 in reading, the standard expected of 14-year-olds.

Proportion of pupils achieving level 4+ in reading

	Level 4	*Level 5*
1997	67	20
1998	71	23
1999	78	31
2000	83	42
2001	82	42
2002	80	38
2003	81	42
2004	83	39
2005	84	43
2006	83	47
2007[1]	84	48

[1] Provisional data.

Although the results achieved by 11-year-olds in 2007 are the best ever, we know that we can and must achieve more. I believe we are right to be ambitious for the system and for what individual pupils can achieve—that is why we have set such stretching national targets for improvements in standards.

We have a strong platform for securing further improvements. From this autumn, every primary school is using the renewed Primary Framework which puts phonics at the heart of the teaching of reading. This is the most significant enhancement to the Primary National Strategy since we first introduced the literacy hour in 1998. We are also rolling out nationally the Every Child A Reader (ECAR) programme. By 2011, this programme will provide 30,000 six-year-olds who have difficulty reading with intensive one-to-one tuition each year.

We are also developing a new programme of intensive support for writing in primary schools—Every Child a Writer—to ensure that every teacher uses the best teaching methods, including one-to-one coaching, in areas of writing which primary children find hardest to master.

Minibuses: Licensing

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with his colleagues at the Department for Transport on the effect on schools' extra-curricular activities of the way in which the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency interprets new licensing requirements in respect of minibus drivers; and if he will make a statement. [164477]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* Following extended discussions with the Department for Transport and its agencies at both ministerial and official level, my Department published a policy statement in April 2006, "Licensing Incidental Drivers of the School Minibus", which clarifies the existing law—there is no new requirement. It explains that school staff who are not contracted to drive the minibus are exempt from having to hold a D1 PCV licence and may drive the minibus on their car licence subject to other conditions of exemption being met. Such incidental drivers are commonly[1] trained in conjunction with the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS), though it is also open for local authorities to arrange for their incidental drivers to take the D1 PCV route as good practice. Our policy also states:

"In the medium term, when a school replaces its minibus, it is likely to lose its exemption because newer minibuses tend to weigh more than 3.5 tonnes, and the Government has no plans to change the weight limit on the exemption. Therefore we advise schools to consider investing in D1 PCV training over the next few years, since the law will require it in the longer term, if or when they move to a heavier minibus."

National Literacy Strategy

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* effectiveness of the National Literacy Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [166684]

Jim Knight: From 1998-99 to 2003-04 the Department has allocated £531.2 million to primary schools and local authorities to support the National Literacy Strategy. From 2004-05 to 2007-08 the Department has allocated a further 720.5 million to support the Primary National Strategy (formerly the National Literacy Strategy and the National Numeracy Strategy). We are unable to split the latter figure down to specific literacy funding as the precise allocations between literacy and numeracy are a matter for each local authority taking account of local needs.

The following table shows a breakdown of Standards Fund grants by year since 1998.

	£ million
National Literacy Strategy	
1998-99	62.7
1999-2000	72.8
2000-01	84.5
2001-02	102.6
2002-03	101.2
2003-04	107.4
Total	531.2
Primary National Strategy	
2004-05	131
2005-06	185
2006-07	198
2007-08	206.5
Total	720.5

In addition to these grants the Department also holds a contract for the central delivery of the National Strategies. This contract includes the provision of an education field force, continuing professional development (CPD) materials and training events. The central delivery support for primary literacy in the current comprehensive spending review (CSR) period (FY 2005-06 to FY 2007-08) is approximately £10 million.

Improving standards of literacy is one of the Government's top priorities. As part of the drive to raise standards in education, the Government introduced the National Literacy Strategy in 1998 and the results achieved by 11-year-olds since 1997 as measured by national curriculum tests in English have risen dramatically. Provisional data for 2007 show that 80 per cent. of 11-year-olds in England reached the expected level or above, an increase of 17 percentage points since 1997.

The renewed primary literacy strategy, with a stronger emphasis on phonics, Every Child a Reader and Every Child a Writer to help those pupils who are struggling, will help to ensure that we maintain and extend the improvements we have already achieved.

Ofsted: Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent by OFSTED on *(a)* taxis, *(b)* Government cars, *(c)* internal flights in the UK, *(d)* overseas flights, *(e)* rail travel and *(f)* couriered documents in each (i) year and (ii) quarter since 31 March 1997; and if he will make a statement. [163561]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

School Leaving

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish each representation received from business groups on the proposal to raise the education leaving age to 18 years. [166709]

Jim Knight: The Department does not normally publish individual responses to consultations where these are received in confidence. A summary of the responses received was published on 24 July and a copy was placed in the House Library.

School Leaving: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school leavers in Cornwall remained in the county and did not enter higher education in each year since 1979; and what percentage of all such school leavers this figure represented in each year. [166711]

Jim Knight: We do not have any information on the movement of school leavers in or out of local authority areas.

School Leaving: Qualifications

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils left school at 16 years with *(a)* no GCSE qualifications and *(b)* no GCSE qualifications but with vocational qualifications in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007 to date. [166723]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the percentage of 15 year-old pupils[1] leaving school with no full GCSE at grade A*-G and no full GCSE but a pass in an equivalent qualification in the Key Stage 4 achievement and attainment tables:

	Percentage of 15 year old pupils1 leaving school with:	
	No GCSE at grade A-G*	*No GCSE but a pass in an equivalent qualification*
1997	7.7	0.0[2]
2007	4.7	2.0

[1]. Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year i.e. 31 August.
[2]. The 1997 figure of 0.0 per cent. equates to around 120 students.

These figures are not directly comparable. In 1997, only GNVQs were included as equivalent to GCSEs in Key Stage 4 Achievement and attainment tables data whereas in 2007, a range of other qualifications have been approved for use pre-16.

School Meals: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding for the school meals service *(a)* in total and *(b)* per meal was provided by each local authority in the latest year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [166682]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected by this Department. The levels of funding for school meals services are determined at local level by local authorities and schools. This Government are however investing around £650 million of additional funding between 2005 and 2011 to help support the drive towards improved school food.

School Meals: Imports

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb, *(c)* pork and *(d)* dairy products used in (i) schools and (ii) sixth form colleges were imported products in the most recent period for which figures are available. [166745]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected by this Department.

Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained schools opened in each year since 1980, excluding those that resulted from merger or amalgamations, those that closed and re-opened as new schools, and those which opened as a result of a move from a three tier to a two tier system. [166701]

Jim Knight: Some 921 maintained schools have opened since 1992, as shown in the following table:

Date opened	*Number opened*
1992	2
1993	0
1994	1
1995	39
1996	111
1997	61
1998	85
1999	133
2000	121
2001	141
2002	55
2003	40
2004	33
2005	56
2006	23
2007	20
Grand total	921

It was not mandatory to supply school opening dates prior to January 2002 and therefore the figures for the years 1992 to 2002 may not be complete.

There are no schools with opening dates listed prior to 1992. As such, it is not possible to give figures from 1980 to 1992.

Schools: Admissions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many admissions there were to Castle Point secondary schools in each of the last three years; how many admission appeals there were in each of those years; and what percentage of decisions on admission applications were appealed against in each of those years. [166981]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the table.

Appeals by parents against non-admission of their children to maintained secondary schools 2003-04 to 2005-06: Castle Point parliamentary constituency

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Number of admissions [1]	1,350	1,318	1,339
Appeals lodged			
Number	53	87	80
Percentage[2]	3.9	6.6	6.0
Appeals heard by an appeals panel			
Number	49	81	74
Percentage[3]	92.5	93.1	92.5
Appeals decided in parents' favour			
Number	12	15	19
Percentage [4]	24.5	18.5	25.7

[1] Number of new admissions, irrespective of age, who joined a school at any time during September to January of the relevant academic year.
[2] The number of appeals lodged expressed as a percentage of the total number of new admissions.
[3] Number of appeals heard by an appeals panel expressed as a percentage of the number of appeals lodged.
[4] Number of appeals decided in parents' favour expressed as a percentage of the number of appeals heard by an appeals panel.
Source:
School Census

Schools: Finance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* funding and *(b)* funding per pupil was provided to (i) academies, (ii) city technology colleges, (iii) grammar schools, (iv) community schools, (v) foundation schools, (vi) voluntary aided schools, (vii) voluntary controlled schools and (viii) specialist schools. [165344]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 November 2007]:* Tables A-C give a breakdown of the available data for the various types of maintained school listed at (iii) to (viii).

Table D gives data for Academies and City Technology Colleges (CTCs). This table is not comparable with the others because Academies and CTCs have academic year budgets, and also receive funding arising from their independent status. For example, they receive funding for VAT liability, and also funding which derives from their responsibility for some expenditure which for maintained schools is met from centrally retained local authority funding. The average level of funding is also high because nearly all pupils at Academies (and all pupils at CTCs) are of secondary age; and Academies mainly serve areas with a high level of pupil deprivation, which itself increases funding levels.

Funding allocated to local authority maintained schools in England at the start of the 2007-08 financial year: Table A: Community/ Community Special/ Foundation/ Foundation Special/ Voluntary Aided/ Voluntary Controlled/ Not known

Type of school[1]	*Number of schools*[2]	*Total budget share plus grants allocated to school*[3,4] *(£)*	*January 2007 pupil count (FTE registered pupils)*[5]	*Average total budget share plus grants per pupil allocated to school*[6] *(£)*
LEA Nursery School	447	160,940,709	25,365.4	6,340
Community	12,896	18,401,085,366	4,704,071.3	3,910

Funding allocated to local authority maintained schools in England at the start of the 2007-08 financial year: Table A: Community/ Community Special/ Foundation/ Foundation Special/ Voluntary Aided/ Voluntary Controlled/ Not known

Type of school[1]	Number of schools[2]	Total budget share plus grants allocated to school[3,4] (£)	January 2007 pupil count (FTE registered pupils)[5]	Average total budget share plus grants per pupil allocated to school[6] (£)
Community Special	998	1,480,423,242	94,281.2	15,700
Foundation	964	3,185,586,879	765,201.3	4,160
Foundation Special	17	36,790,326	2,612.1	14,080
Voluntary aided	4,299	4,853,247,519	1,272,285.9	3,810
Voluntary controlled	2,671	1,846,729,371	520,140.9	3,550
Not known	26	9,636,293	2,191.9	4,400
Total (all schools)	22,318	29,974,439,705	7,386,150.0	4,060

Table B: Grammar Schools/ Non Grammar Schools/ Not known

Type of school[1]	Number of schools[2]	Total budget share plus grants allocated to school[3,4] (£)	January 2007 Pupil Count (FTE registered pupils)[5]	Average total budget share plus grants per pupil allocated to school[6] (£)
Grammar Schools	164	654,002,251	156,869.4	4,170
Non Grammar Schools	22,128	29,310,801,161	7,227,088.8	4,060
Not known	26	9,636,293	2,191.9	4,400
Total (all schools)	22,318	29,974,439,705	7,386,150.0	4,060

Table C: Specialist Schools/ Non Specialist Schools/ Not Known

Type of school[1]	Number of schools[2]	Total budget share plus grants allocated to school[3,4] (£)	January 2007 Pupil Count (FTE registered pupils)[5]	Average total budget share plus grants per pupil allocated to school[6] (£)
Specialist Schools	2,797	12,824,638,071	2,850,667.1	4,500
Non Specialist Schools	19,495	17,140,165,340	4,533,291.1	3,780
Not known	26	9,636,293	2,191.9	4,400
Total (all schools)	22,318	29,974,439,705	7,386,150.0	4,060

[1] The school types are drawn from Edubase (the Department's database of educational establishments) and matched across to the financial data reported on Section 52 Budget to give the figures for each school type. The 26 schools with unknown classifications are those where there is no match between Section 52 and Edubase.
[2] Included are all local authority maintained schools in England reported by local authorities on their 2007-08 Section 52 Budget Statement (Table 2). All tables include primary, secondary and special schools.
[3] Budget share plus grants is the combination of the school's individual budget share plus any revenue grants allocated to the school at the start of the financial year. For 2007-08 this comprises the Total Budget Share plus any School Standards Grant (including personalisation), School Development Grant, Other Standards Fund Allocation, Devolved School Meals Grant, Targeted School Meals Grant, Threshold and Performance Pay and Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty allocated to the school at the start of the financial year. Financial data are drawn from local authorities' 2007-08 Section 52 Budget Statements (Table 2) submitted to the DCSF. This does not include any capital funding allocated to schools.
[4] The amount of money allocated to a school depends very much on the individual local authorities' own policy for funding their schools. Different authorities retain varying amounts of funding centrally to spend on behalf of their schools while others chose to give schools more autonomy over how they spend their money by devolving more funding to the individual school.
[5] The January 2007 pupil numbers used to calculate the per pupil amounts are as reported by the local authority on their Section 52 Budget Statement comprising the full time equivalent number pupils registered at the school used for the initial determination of the school's budget share under the local authority's allocation formula.
[6] Per pupil figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and may not sum due to rounding.
Notes:
1. 2007-08 data are subject to change by the local authority.
2. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 15 November 2007.

Table D: Funding allocated to Academies and CTCs for the Academic year 2007/08

Type of school	Number of schools[1]	Total revenue funding[2] (£)	Pupil numbers[3]	Average per pupil (£)
Academies	84	446,549,179	78,507	5,688
CTCs	4	27,328,313	5,091	5,368

[1] BRIT City College For The Technology Of The Arts is funded as an academy and included as such in the table although its legal status is the same as a CTC.
[2] Includes all revenue grants payable by DCSF except start-up grants and earmarked annual grants, which are excluded. School Standards Grant payable in May 2008 is included on an estimated basis. Does not include Standards Fund and SEN funding payable through or by local authorities.
[3] Academies are funded on forecast numbers at September 2007; CTCs on agreed pupil numbers related to capacity.

Schools: Fire Extinguishers

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the plans to install sprinkler systems in new and refurbished schools extend to all categories of state schools. [167323]

Jim Knight: The Department's policy on sprinkler systems is that a risk assessment should be undertaken for new and refurbishment projects in all categories of state-funded schools. To help local authorities and school designers to decide when sprinklers are needed, DCSF has produced a risk assessment tool and a cost benefit analysis tool. See

www.teachernet.gov.uk/fire.

Our expectation is that nearly all new schools and some refurbished schools will have fire sprinklers installed, however this is not a compulsory measure. There may be cases where local authorities or other promoters of schools consider that sprinklers are not needed. If so, they will need to be able to demonstrate that such schools are very low risk and that sprinklers would not represent good value for money.

Schools: Fire Prevention

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in West Leeds are fitted with sprinkler systems. [166273]

Jim Knight: Currently four schools in the constituency of Leeds West are fitted with sprinklers. A further 11 or so schools in West Leeds in the Pudsey and Leeds North West constituencies also have sprinkler systems fitted. Since 2001, Leeds Education have had a policy to fit sprinklers in all new build schools and the new PFI schools being constructed and the new BSF schools in planning will all have sprinkler systems installed. Refurbishment schemes in Leeds are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Schools: Special Educational Needs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which schools more than half of the pupils have special educational needs, excluding special schools. [166704]

Jim Knight: In the table placed in the House Library the 731 schools in which more than half of the pupils have special educational needs is shown. Independent special schools have been included in the list as the indicator used is not sufficiently robust to enable them to be excluded.

Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of secondary schools had more than *(a)* 1,000 pupils and *(b)* 1,500 pupils in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [166703]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the table

Maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies[1]: Number of schools and pupils by size of school[2]—position in January each year: 1997 and 2007—England

	Schools with up to and including 1,000 pupils		
	Number of schools	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of pupils[3]*
1997	2,429	1,612,510	52.8
2007	1,841	1,290,040	38.8

	Schools with 1,001 to 1,500 pupils		
	Number of schools	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of pupils[3]*
1997	1,019	1,216,690	39.8
2007	1,270	1,539,480	46.3

	Schools with 1,501 to 2,000 pupils		
	Number of schools	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of pupils[3]*
1997	130	215,010	7.0
2007	266	444,480	13.4

	Schools with more than 2,000 pupils		
	Number of schools	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of pupils[3]*
1997	6	12,650	0.4
2007	22	47,540	1.4

	All schools		
	Number of schools	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of pupils[3]*
1997	3,584	3,056,870	100.0
2007	3,399	3,321,530	100.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Based on a headcount of pupils. Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] The number of pupils by size band of schools expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils in maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies.

Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10

Source:
School Census

Secondary Education: Admissions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of secondary schools were oversubscribed for admissions in 2007. [165761]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 439W.

Secondary Education: Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list all maintained secondary schools with over 50 per cent. of children eligible for free school meals, ranked by *(a)* percentage of children eligible for free school meals and *(b)* percentage of children achieving (i) five or more A* to C GCSEs and (ii) five or more A* to C GCSEs including maths and English. [166343]

Jim Knight: This information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Secondary Education: Surveys

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the results of the Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey to be published. [166467]

Jim Knight: The results of the 2007 Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey are expected to be published in early 2008.

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he has had with the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust about its future role. [164461]

Jim Knight: The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) is a valued strategic partner. The Department has many discussions with the SSAT on their ongoing work to support specialist schools and academies.

Supply Teachers

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many supply teacher days there were in each *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school in Merseyside in 2006-07; and what the average number of such days was in each category of school in England in the same period. [166718]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Labour Turnover

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of school teachers left the profession before completing five years of teaching *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by subject in (i) England, (ii) each region and (iii) each local education authority area in the latest year for which figures are available. [166501]

Jim Knight: Provisional estimates show that the number of full and part-time qualified teachers with less than five years recorded teaching service who left local authority maintained schools in England in 2005-06 was 9,340. It is not known how many of these were going to teaching posts in other education sectors or countries or how many were leaving teaching permanently. This information is not available broken down by subject, region or local authority.

The source of this information is the Database of Teacher Records (DTR).

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average pay of *(a)* teachers and *(b)* principals in (i) academies and (ii) other maintained schools. [166047]

Jim Knight: Information on the average pay of teachers is available from the Database of Teacher Records an administrative source used primarily for pension administration purposes. The average pay of teachers in Academy schools is, however, not currently available because the coverage and completeness of these data is not yet sufficient to create a meaningful average. The average pay of all full-time regular qualified classroom teachers, excluding leadership grades, in other maintained schools in England and Wales in March 2006 was £31,400. The average pay of principals and head teachers in these schools was £51,800. The overall average for all grades was £34,000. These figures are the latest available and are provisional estimates.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of average teacher pay relative to average *(a)* police pay, *(b)* nurse pay, *(c)* GP pay and *(d)* private sector pay in each year since 1992. [166620]

Jim Knight: Estimates have not been calculated in this form. The Government provide evidence on teachers' pay issues and related matters to the independent School Teachers Review Body (STRB) as it sees fit. The STRB takes a range of information into account when making recommendations on teachers' pay, including factors identified in its statutory remit letter.

Teachers: Pension

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net cost of the teachers' pension scheme was in each year from 1987-88 to 2007-08. [166681]

Jim Knight: Figures for gross expenditure of the Teachers' Pension Scheme were provided in the answer given to the hon. Member on 1 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 447W and are repeated as follows, together with net expenditure figures for financial years 1991-92 to 2006-07. The decrease in net expenditure in 2003-04 was a consequence of a refinancing of the scheme which resulted in an increase in the contribution rate to provide for the Teachers' Pension Scheme meeting the cost of annual pensions increases, which had previously been funded directly by the Exchequer.

Expenditure against the teachers' pension scheme

All figures shown on cash basis in £ billion

	Gross	*Net*
1991-92	2.161	0.711
1992-93	2.395	0.804
1993-94	2.635	0.992
1994-95	2.709	1.014
1995-96	2.937	1.186
1996-97	3.254	1.422
1997-98	3.643	1.812
1998-99	3.378	1.493
1999-2000	3.577	1.572
2000-01	3.716	1.568
2001-02	3.957	1.626
2002-03	4.205	1.593

Expenditure against the teachers' pension scheme

	All figures shown on cash basis in £ billion	
	Gross	*Net*
2003-04	4.428	0.796
2004-05	4.747	0.885
2005-06	5.099	1.057
2006-07	5.471	1.273

Teachers: Special Educational Needs

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what training is provided to students studying for *(a)* a bachelor's degree and *(b)* a postgraduate certificate in education on supporting children with speech, language and communication difficulties; [166391]

(2) what proportion of the *(a)* bachelor's degree in education and *(b)* postgraduate qualifications in teaching courses are made up of learning relevant to identifying and supporting children with (i) a disability and (ii) speech and language difficulties; and if he will make a statement. [166392]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 20 November 2007]:* All accredited providers of initial teacher training (ITT) must design their programmes to ensure that they meet the Secretary of State's Requirements for ITT, and that all trainees demonstrate the Professional Standards for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). These standards are statutory and are rigorously inspected by Ofsted. They were reviewed recently along with all classroom teacher standards and new standards, effective from September 2007, have been significantly strengthened in the areas of special needs and disability. There is no prescription as to how much time must be spent on individual elements of training; the standards are outcome statements, and training must be sufficiently personalised to ensure that every trainee, irrespective of their training route, meets all of them before being recommended for QTS.

To be awarded QTS, all trainee teachers currently must demonstrate that they:

know how to make effective personalised provision for those they teach, including those who have special educational needs and disabilities (including children and young people with speech, language and learning difficulties); and

know and understand the roles of colleagues with specific responsibilities including those with responsibility for learners with special educational needs and disabilities, and other individual learning needs (including colleagues that have specific responsibility for children and young people with speech, language and learning difficulties).

Teachers: Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many training places were *(a)* available and *(b)* taken up for teachers of (i) mathematics, (ii) physics and (iii) modern languages in each year from 1997 to 2007; and if he will make a statement. [166621]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of training places ("targets") made available to the Training and Development Agency (TDA) for mathematics, science and modern languages for each academic year between 1997/98 and 2007/08:

Initial teacher training places[1]: Academic years 1997/98 to 2007/08—England

	Secondary subject[2]		
	Mathematics	*Science*	*Modern foreign languages*
1997/98	2,250	3,300	2,650
1998/99	2,150	3,050	2,300
1999/2000	1,680	2,390	2,200
2000/01	1,850	2,690	2,050
2001/02	1,940	2,810	2,050
2002/03	1,940	2,850	2,050
2003/04	2,315	3,225	2,050
2004/05	2,350	3,225	2,050
2005/06	2,350	3,225	1,900
2006/07	2,350	3,225	1,790
2007/08	2,350	3,225	1,670

[1] Includes SCITT but excludes employment-based routes.
2. Places for vocational subjects in 2006/07 are included with the allocation for related academic subject: Science includes places for applied science.
Source:
DFES

Recruitment figures to mainstream ITT courses in these subjects for each academic year between 1997/98 and 2006/07 are shown in the following table:

Recruitment to initial teacher training courses[1,2]: Academic year 1997/98 to 2006/07—England

	Secondary subjects			
	Mathematics	*Science[3]*	*Of which: Physics*	*Modern foreign languages*
1997/98	1,460	2,790	—	1,800
1998/99	1,120	2,280	—	1,660
1999/2000	1,300	2,360	—	1,470
2000/01	1,290	2,410	—	1,640
2001/02	1,550	2,590	—	1,710
2002/03	1,670	2,700	—	1,730
2003/04	1,940	2,870	—	1,820
2004/05	2,030	2,830	—	1,620
2005/06	1,920	2,890	—	1,500
2006/07	2,000	2,990	350	1,500

[1] Recruitment figures for 2006/07 are provisional and are subject to change.
[2] Includes universities and other HE institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment based routes. Recruitment numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 10.
[3] Physics is included in the total for science. Prior to 2006/07, the breakdown for science subjects was not available. Excludes applied science from 2004/05 onwards.
Source:
TDA survey of ITT providers

Places for applied science, except for 2004/05 are included within the allocation for Science. Updated tables, incorporating final 2006/07 and provisional 2007/08 recruitment data are scheduled to be published in January 2008.

The Training and Development Agency (TDA) announcement of 12 November 2007 included provisional recruitment figures for physics specialists of 477 for academic year 2007/08.

Training: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether a young person aged 16 or 17 years old who is employed for less than 20 hours a week would receive financial support for the day a week spent in training under the terms of the Education and Skills Bill; and if he will make a statement. [165756]

Jim Knight: Our aim is that from 2013 all young people will continue to participate in education or training post-16. Young people will be able to work if they choose to but they should still be in education or training, either part-time alongside employment over 20 hours a week, or full-time alongside employment of less than 20 hours a week. We made clear in the document "Raising Expectations: staying in education and training post-16 - from policy to legislation" that financial constraints should not be a barrier to participation and we are therefore looking at a variety of options to ensure that financial support for learning is restructured in the most effective way.

Truancy: Parenting Orders

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* parenting orders and *(b)* fines have been issued in relation to school truancy in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [166339]

Jim Knight: The information is given in the following table. The Department has collected data on the number of penalty notices and parenting orders issued in relation to school non-attendance since 1 September 2004. The latest date for which information is available is 13 April 2007.

	2004/05	*2005/06*	*1 September 2006 to 13 April 2007*
Penalty notices for irregular school attendance	3,483	12,150	7,662
Parenting orders issued by the courts following prosecution for irregular school attendance	427	505	151

Young People: Easington

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 16 to 18-year-olds in Easington constituency were not in education, employment and training at the most recent date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [165903]

Jim Knight: The Department's estimate of the number and proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) cannot be disaggregated to local level. However, information collected by the Connexions Service indicates that there were around 2,060 16 to 18-year-olds NEET in County Durham at the end of 2006. This information is not available for Easington constituency.

We are committed to ensuring that more young people remain in education and training beyond the age of 16 to ensure that they have the skills they need to prosper in a changing economy. Significant progress is being made; 78.1 per cent. of 16-year-olds are in full-time education, a rise of 6 percentage points in 3 years. But, we must focus in particular on young people not in work or learning, and announced on 5 November a range of measures to reduce sharply the proportion NEET. Together with the Education and Training, and Youth Matters reforms, these will make a significant reduction in the proportion of young people NEET and put us on the pathway to ensuring that all young people participate in education or training up to the age of 18.

Youth Services: Birmingham

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to increase spending on youth services in Birmingham; and if he will make a statement. [162864]

Beverley Hughes: It is for each local authority to decide from within their overall budget how much to spend on the provision of youth services. They have the freedom to decide the best way of delivering while taking into account government policy and local needs. The recent CSR settlement for local government, which included an increase in Formula Grant of 4.2 per cent./3.5 per cent./3.4 per cent. is a very positive one for children and young people's services. These increases in Formula Grant will enable local authorities to build on 10 years of sustained growth in the area and continue our work on improving outcomes for children and young people. In July 2007 the Government published "Aiming High for Young People: a ten year strategy for positive activities", with the aim of increasing young people's access to positive leisure time activities. The strategy is supported, over the 2008-11 period, by £184 million of new money, in addition to £495 million of continuing funding and reinvestment of unclaimed assets.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Languages

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils in Year 11 were entered for a GCSE in *(a)* French, *(b)* Spanish, *(c)* German, *(d)* Mandarin, *(e)* Italian and *(f)* another modern foreign language in (i) independent and (ii) maintained schools in each year since 2001. [166500]

Jim Knight: This information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs at A*to C grade in *(a)* metropolitan and *(b)* non-metropolitan maintained secondary schools in each year from 1992 to 2007; and if he will make a statement. [166687]

Jim Knight: This information only be provided can at a disproportionate cost.

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 21 November 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire Services: Firebuy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what process was followed by Firebuy Limited in setting the technical specifications for procurement on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Service; what mechanism is in place to provide assurance in relation to this process; what recent *(a)* discussions she has had and *(b)* representations she has received from (i) the Fire and Rescue Service and (ii) others on the (A) procedures and practices, (B) conclusions and (C) overall performance against objectives of Firebuy Limited in relation to the Integrated Clothing Project; and if she will make a statement. [160485]

[Official Report, 25 October 2007, Vol. 465, c. 509W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Dhanda to Andrew Stunell:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Hazel Grove on 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 509W. The correct answer should have been:

The Integrated Clothing Project operates under the principles of the Prince2 project management method and is subject to Gateway reviews by the 4ps (Public Private Partnerships Programme) who are the local government procurement experts. Firebuy Ltd works with the Chief Fire Officers Association, as the professional voice of the Fire & Rescue Service, in the setting of national technical specifications. The testing methodology utilised by Firebuy Limited, for Personal Protective Equipment, has become the benchmark process which is now contained within British Standard BS 8469. It is the intention of the UK to offer this British Standard for possible inclusion in the appropriate European and International Standards committees.

There have been recent *(a)* discussions and *(b)* representation from both (i) Fire & Rescue Authorities (FRAs) and (ii) suppliers to the industry on when the Integrated Clothing Project will be let as this kit is required urgently by some FRAs. It is too soon to comment on the (A) procedures and practices, (B) conclusions and (C) overall performance against objectives as the project has just completed the Stage 3 Gateway Review, which looked at the investment decision.